

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Report: NHL  
will cancel  
season**  
Back page



**Toys galore  
at Hanau doll  
museum**  
Quick Trips, Page 22



**Germany plans travel  
restrictions during  
Bush visit**  
Page 3

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

50¢

## Army creates new combat badge for non-infantry GIs

CIB-equivalent comes at request of war zone commanders Page 6



Ray  
Charles



Kanye West



Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dint and Tre Cool of Green Day

**Ray Charles'  
'Genius' is  
rewarded at  
Grammys**

Page 14



Alicia Keys

KANYE WEST, GREEN DAY AND ALICIA KEYS PHOTOS: AP

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## TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	26
American Roundup .....	18-19
Classified .....	27-28
Comics .....	24-26
Crossword .....	25
Faces .....	21
Horoscope .....	28
Opinion .....	16-17
Sports .....	29-36
TV listings .....	23
Weather .....	20
Your Money .....	15

## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Al-Qaida trial:** Eleven suspected members of the al-Qaida terror network went on trial Monday in Yemen, accused of planning attacks there and in other countries.

The prosecution says the suspects — all Yemeni men — confessed to receiving military training in Afghanistan and planning attacks against Americans and other Westerners in Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq. Some of the suspects were extradited from Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

**Roof collapse anniversary:** Mourners, Russian Orthodox priests and Moscow city officials on Monday marked the first anniversary of a roof collapse at a popular water park that killed 28 people, unveiling a newly erected cross and memorial plaque at the site.

Relatives and friends of the victims as well as of the more than 190 people who were injured lit candles and lay portraits and flowers under the black granite plaque listing the names of the dead. A preliminary report has blamed a design flaw for the collapse.

**Iran's nuclear ambitions:** Iranian Foreign Minister Kamel Kharrazi said Monday his country has no intention of developing nuclear weapons, adding that such a course would violate "our ideology ... our Islamic thinking."

Kharrazi, speaking after a meeting in Budapest, Hungary, said Tehran also does not fear being attacked by the United States. But Iran is "well-prepared" for such an eventuality, he said.

**Pope stops to reflect:** Pope John Paul II, recovered from the flu and respiratory problems, is spending this week in a retreat for his traditional Lenten period of spiritual reflection.

During the period of prayer at the Vatican — which was scheduled before the pontiff fell ill — all audiences are suspended, including the pontiff's customary Wednesday public audience. The retreat began Sunday and will continue through Saturday.

**Israeli body handover:** The Israeli military delivered the bodies of 15 militants to the Palestinians for burial Monday, a handover celebrated in Gaza as the first real achievement of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who is trying to prevent fierce militants from straying from a fragile truce.

This latest dividend of improved relations between Israel and the Palestinians came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced that he would ask the Cabinet next week to formally serve notice of the government's intention to withdraw from Gaza and four West Bank settlements.

**Pakistan rain deaths:** Authorities in Pakistan's northwest on Monday reported 80 more fatalities from a week of heavy rain and snow, pushing the nationwide death toll from the harsh winter weather to more than



**Afghan plane crash:** Afghan National Army members search in the snow to recover the bodies of 104 people killed in the crash of an Afghan airliner 10 days after it smashed into a mountain in a snowstorm east of Kabul. Teams found the first body — that of an Afghan crew member — on Monday. Bad weather and deep snow meant the recovery operation couldn't start until Sunday.

AP

430 as relief efforts continued.

The emergency relief department in North West Frontier Province said that roads to badly affected areas remained blocked by landslides and snow, hampering efforts to provide food, medicine, tents and blankets to the needy.

**Nepal political maneuvers:** Nepal's king consolidated his power Monday by appointing two former prime ministers who are seen as unlikely to challenge his rule to top posts in his Cabinet.

Kritinidhi Bista, 79, and Tulsī Giri, 78, were named vice chairmen of the 10-member Cabinet installed by King Gyanendra in Kathmandu. Both served as prime ministers before 1990 when Nepal was under an absolute monarchy, and are therefore viewed as sympathetic to the king. Meanwhile, neighboring India stepped up diplomatic pressure on Gyanendra to restore democracy after dismissing the government and declaring a state of emergency earlier this month.

## States

**Michael Jackson trial:** Attorneys on both sides of pop star Michael Jackson's child-molestation trial now face the delicate task of selecting 20 jurors from a total of 250

people who filled out questionnaires.

After a weeklong delay, jury selection was expected to resume Monday with prosecutors and defense attorneys trying to thin the list to 12 panelists who will render a verdict and eight alternates.

## War on terrorism

**Taliban suspect caught:** Security forces detained a suspected Taliban commander in central Afghanistan after finding him hiding in a well and have handed him over to the U.S. military, an official said Monday.

Mullah Mohammed Naem surrendered Friday after Afghan troops surrounded the house he was in, Gov. Jan Mohammed Khan said. Naem was responsible for several attacks on American and Afghan troops in the region, Khan claimed.

## Military

**Missile defense test:** A test of the national missile defense system failed Monday when an interceptor missile did not launch from its island base in the Pacific Ocean, the military said. It was the second failure in months for the experimental program.

A statement from the Missile Defense Agency said the cause of the failure was under investigation.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

## Correction

A story in Saturday's editions about V Corps units retreating to Iraq within a year should have said the initial assault into Iraq occurred nearly two years ago.

## Note to our readers

Due to technical problems, the special section of "Valentine's Messages" did not appear in the Middle East edition of Stars and Stripes on Feb. 14. The messages appear in today's Middle East edition. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused our readers and their families.

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2076, 2088, 2100, 2112, 2124, 2136, 2148, 2160, 2172, 2184, 2196, 2208, 2220, 2232, 2244, 2256, 2268, 2280, 2292, 2304, 2316, 2328, 2340, 2352, 2364, 2376, 2388, 2400, 2412, 2424, 2436, 2448, 2460, 2472, 2484, 2496, 2508, 2520, 2532, 2544, 2556, 2568, 2580, 2592, 2604, 2616, 2628, 2640, 2652, 2664, 2676, 2688, 2700, 2712, 2724, 2736, 2748, 2760, 2772, 2784, 2796, 2808, 2820, 2832, 2844, 2856, 2868, 2880, 2892, 2904, 2916, 2928, 2940, 2952, 2964, 2976, 2988, 3000, 3012, 3024, 3036, 3048, 3060, 3072, 3084, 3096, 3108, 3120, 3132, 3144, 3156, 3168, 3180, 3192, 3204, 3216, 3228, 3240, 3252, 3264, 3276, 3288, 3300, 3312, 3324, 3336, 3348, 3360, 3372, 3384, 3396, 3408, 3420, 3432, 3444, 3456, 3468, 3480, 3492, 3504, 3516, 3528, 3540, 3552, 3564, 3576, 3588, 3600, 3612, 3624, 3636, 3648, 3660, 3672, 3684, 3696, 3708, 3720, 3732, 3744, 3756, 3768, 3780, 3792, 3804, 3816, 3828, 3840, 3852, 3864, 3876, 3888, 3900, 3912, 3924, 3936, 3948, 3960, 3972, 3984, 3996, 4008, 4020, 4032, 4044, 4056, 4068, 4080, 4092, 4104, 4116, 4128, 4140, 4152, 4164, 4176, 4188, 4200, 4212, 4224, 4236, 4248, 4260, 4272, 4284, 4296, 4308, 4320, 4332, 4344, 4356, 4368, 4380, 4392, 4404, 4416, 4428, 4440, 4452, 4464, 4476, 4488, 4500, 4512, 4524, 4536, 4548, 4560, 4572, 4584, 4596, 4608, 4620, 4632, 4644, 4656, 4668, 4680, 4692, 4704, 4716, 4728, 4740, 4752, 4764, 4776, 4788, 4800, 4812, 4824, 4836, 4848, 4860, 4872, 4884, 4896, 4908, 4920, 4932, 4944, 4956, 4968, 4980, 4992, 5004, 5016, 5028, 5040, 5052, 5064, 5076, 5088, 5100, 5112, 5124, 5136, 5148, 5160, 5172, 5184, 5196, 5208, 5220, 5232, 5244, 5256, 5268, 5280, 5292, 5304, 5316, 5328, 5340, 5352, 5364, 5376, 5388, 5400, 5412, 5424, 5436, 5448, 5460, 5472, 5484, 5496, 5508, 5520, 5532, 5544, 5556, 5568, 5580, 5592, 5604, 5616, 5628, 5640, 5652, 5664, 5676, 5688, 5700, 5712, 5724, 5736, 5748, 5760, 5772, 5784, 5796, 5808, 5820, 5832, 5844, 5856, 5868, 5880, 5892, 5904, 5916, 5928, 5940, 5952, 5964, 5976, 5988, 6000, 6012, 6024, 6036, 6048, 6060, 6072, 6084, 6096, 6108, 6120, 6132, 6144, 6156, 6168, 6180, 6192, 6204, 6216, 6228, 6240, 6252, 6264, 6276, 6288, 6300, 6312, 6324, 6336, 6348, 6360, 6372, 6384, 6396, 6408, 6420, 6432, 6444, 6456, 6468, 6480, 6492, 6504, 6516, 6528, 6540, 6552, 6564, 6576, 6588, 6600, 6612, 6624, 6636, 6648, 6660, 6672, 6684, 6696, 6708, 6720, 6732, 6744, 6756, 6768, 6780, 6792, 6804, 6816, 6828, 6840, 6852, 6864, 6876, 6888, 6900, 6912, 6924, 6936, 6948, 6960, 6972, 6984, 6996, 7008, 7020, 7032, 7044, 7056, 7068, 7080, 7092, 7104, 7116, 7128, 7140, 7152, 7164, 7176, 7188, 7200, 7212, 7224, 7236, 7248, 7260, 7272, 7284, 7296, 7308, 7320, 7332, 7344, 7356, 7368, 7380, 7392, 7404, 7416, 7428, 7440, 7452, 7464, 7476, 7488, 7500, 7512, 7524, 7536, 7548, 7560, 7572, 7584, 7596, 7608, 7620, 7632, 7644, 7656, 7668, 7680, 7692, 7704, 7716, 7728, 7740, 7752, 7764, 7776, 7788, 7800, 7812, 7824, 7836, 7848, 7860, 7872, 7884, 7896, 7908, 7920, 7932, 7944, 7956, 7968, 7980, 7992, 8004, 8016, 8028, 8040, 8052, 8064, 8076, 8088, 8100, 8112, 8124, 8136, 8148, 8160, 8172, 8184, 8196, 8208, 8220, 8232, 8244, 8256, 8268, 8280, 8292, 8304, 8316, 8328, 8340, 8352, 8364, 8376, 8388, 8400, 8412, 8424, 8436, 8448, 8460, 8472, 8484, 8496, 8508, 8520, 8532, 8544, 8556, 8568, 8580, 8592, 8604, 8616, 8628, 8640, 8652, 8664, 8676, 8688, 8700, 8712, 8724, 8736, 8748, 8760, 8772, 8784, 8796, 8808, 8820, 8832, 8844, 8856, 8868, 8880, 8892, 8904, 8916, 8928, 8940, 8952, 8964, 8976, 8988, 9000, 9012, 9024, 9036, 9048, 9060, 9072, 9084, 9096, 9108, 9120, 9132, 9144, 9156, 9168, 9180, 9192, 9204, 9216, 9228, 9240, 9252, 9264, 9276, 9288, 9300, 9312, 9324, 9336, 9348, 9360, 9372, 9384, 9396, 9408, 9420, 9432, 9444, 9456, 9468, 9480, 9492, 9504, 9516, 9528, 9540, 9552, 9564, 9576, 9588, 9600, 9612, 9624, 9636, 9648, 9660, 9672, 9684, 9696, 9708, 9720, 9732, 9744, 9756, 9768, 9780, 9792, 9804, 9816, 9828, 9840, 9852, 9864, 9876, 9888, 9900, 9912, 9924, 9936, 9948, 9960, 9972, 9984, 9996, 10008, 10020, 10032, 10044, 10056, 10068, 10080, 10092, 10104, 10116, 10128, 10140, 10152, 10164, 10176, 10188, 10200, 10212, 10224, 10236, 10248, 10260, 10272, 10284, 10296, 10308, 10320, 10332, 10344, 10356, 10368, 10380, 10392, 10404, 10416, 10428, 10440, 10452, 10464, 10476, 10488, 10500, 10512, 10524, 10536, 10548, 10560, 10572, 10584, 10596, 10608, 10620, 10632, 10644, 10656, 10668, 10680, 10692, 10704, 10716, 10728, 10740, 10752, 10764, 10776, 10788, 10800, 10812, 10824, 10836, 10848, 10860, 10872, 10884, 10896, 10908, 10920, 10932, 10944, 10956, 10968, 10980, 10992, 11004, 11016, 11028, 11040, 11052, 11064, 11076, 11088, 11100, 11112, 11124, 11136, 11148, 11160, 11172, 11184, 11196, 11208, 11220, 11232, 11244, 11256, 11268, 11280, 11292, 11304, 11316, 11328, 11340, 11352, 11364, 11376, 11388, 11400, 11412, 11424, 11436, 11448, 11460, 11472, 11484, 11496, 11508, 11520, 11532, 11544, 11556, 11568, 11580, 11592, 11604, 11616, 11628, 11640, 11652, 11664, 11676, 11688, 11700, 11712, 11724, 11736, 11748, 11760, 11772, 11784, 11796, 11808, 11820, 11832, 11844, 11856, 11868, 11880, 11892, 11904, 11916, 11928, 11940, 11952, 11964, 11976, 11988, 12000, 12012, 12024, 12036, 12048, 12060, 12072, 12084, 12096, 12108, 12120, 12132, 12144, 12156, 12168, 12180, 12192, 12204, 12216, 12228, 12240, 12252, 12264, 12276, 12288, 12300, 12312, 12324, 12336, 12348, 12360, 12372, 12384, 12396, 12408, 12420, 12432, 12444, 12456, 12468, 12480, 12492, 12504, 12516, 12528, 12540, 12552, 12564, 12576, 12588, 12600, 12612, 12624, 12636, 12648, 12660, 12672, 12684, 12696, 12708, 12720, 12732, 12744, 12756, 12768, 12780, 12792, 12804, 12816, 12828, 12840, 12852, 12864, 12876, 12888, 12900, 12912, 12924, 12936, 12948, 12960, 12972, 12984, 12996, 13008, 13020, 13032, 13044, 13056, 13068, 13080, 13092, 13104, 13116, 13128, 13140, 13152, 13164, 13176, 13188, 13200, 13212, 13224, 13236, 13248, 13260, 13272, 13284, 13296, 13308, 13320, 13332, 13344, 13356, 13368, 13380, 13392, 13404, 13416, 13428, 13440, 13452, 13464, 13476, 13488, 13500, 13512, 13524, 13536, 13548, 13560, 13572, 13584, 13596, 13608, 13620, 13632, 13644, 13656, 13668, 13680, 13692, 13704, 13716, 13728, 13740, 13752, 13764, 13776, 13788, 13800, 13812, 13824, 13836, 13848, 13860, 13872, 13884, 13896, 13908, 13920, 13932, 13944, 13956, 13968, 13980, 13992, 14004, 14016, 14028, 14040, 14052, 14064, 14076, 14088, 14100, 14112, 14124, 14136, 14148, 14160, 14172, 14184, 14196, 14208, 14220, 14232, 14244, 14256, 14268, 14280, 14292, 14304, 14316, 14328, 14340, 14352, 14364, 14376, 14388, 14400, 14412, 14424, 14436, 14448, 14460, 14472, 14484, 14496, 14508, 14520, 14532, 14544, 14556, 14568, 14580, 14592, 14604, 14616, 14628, 14640, 14652, 14664, 14676, 14688, 14700, 14712, 14724, 14736, 14748, 14760, 14772, 14784, 14796, 14808, 14820, 14832, 14844, 14856, 14868, 14880, 14892, 14904, 14916, 14928, 14940, 14952, 14964, 14976, 14988, 15000, 15012, 15024, 15036, 15048, 15060, 15072, 15084, 15096, 15108, 15120, 15132, 15144, 15156, 15168, 15180, 15192, 15204, 15216, 15228, 15240, 15252, 15264, 15276, 15288, 15300, 15312, 15324, 15336, 15348, 15360, 15372, 15384, 15396, 15408, 15420, 15432, 15444, 15456, 15468, 15480, 15492, 15504, 15516, 15528, 15540, 15552, 15564, 15576, 15588, 15600, 15612, 15624, 15636, 15648, 15660, 15672, 15684, 15696, 15708, 15720, 15732, 15744, 15756, 15768, 15780, 15792, 15804, 15816, 15828, 15840, 15852, 15864, 15876, 15888, 15900, 15912, 15924, 15936, 15948, 15960, 15972, 15984, 15996, 16008, 16020, 16032, 16044, 16056, 16068, 16080, 16092, 16104, 16116, 16128, 16140, 16152, 16164, 16176, 16188, 16200, 16212, 16224, 16236, 16248, 16260, 16272, 16284, 16296, 16308, 16320, 16332, 16344, 16356, 16368, 16380, 16392, 16404, 16416, 16428, 16440, 16452, 16464, 16476, 16488, 16500, 165

# Mainz security will be tight for Bush visit

## Roads, rivers, airspace, even schools to be shut down Feb. 23

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

MAINZ, Germany — The German government is planning to close major highways, river routes and airspace within a 37-mile radius when President Bush visits Mainz on Feb. 23.

Though still in the planning stages, the security strategy is expected to upset thousands of German commuters, as well as some Americans stationed in the area.

Portions of highways 60, 67, 3 and 66 will be closed from the Frankfurt International Airport past the city of Mainz from 7 to 11 a.m. and from 5 to 10 p.m. Also, both the Rhine and the Main rivers will be closed throughout the day, and airspace above the communities will be closed and monitored.

During a news conference Monday at the Rheinland-Palatinate state chancellery office, German police from the states of Hesse and Rheinland-Palatinate explained that protecting the U.S. president is the top priority.

Bush will be meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder at the Kurfürstliches Schloss, a castle along the Rhine River in Mainz, German officials said during the news conference.

They said they believe Bush will be vis-

iting troops at nearby bases in Wiesbaden, but did not have any specifics.

However, Donna Deed, public affairs officer for the Army's 221st Base Support Battalion in Wiesbaden, and Bob Purman, from the U.S. Army Europe office in Heidelberg, said they did not have

**"This is the biggest police event ever in the Rhein-Main area."**

Karlheinz Pfister

director of the Wiesbaden Police Department

any information on a planned presidential visit with the troops.

German officials also said first lady Laura Bush would be visiting American installations in Rheinland-Palatinate, which might include Ramstein Air Force Base or Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Army officials did not have any information on that trip.

Along with closing down highways and rivers, German schools in suburbs of Wiesbaden and Mainz will be closed for the day.

German officials apologized for the inconvenience, but said they were taking no chances after last year's intelligence reports of a possible assassination of interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi who visited Berlin in December.

"This is the biggest police event ever in the Rhein-Main area. Several thousand policemen will be on the job," said Karlheinz Pfister, director of the Wiesbaden Police Department.

"Protecting the airspace is a new dimension to German safety measures after 9/11," he said, adding that unauthorized planes would be shot down.

Pfister suggested that people who must travel during the visit take public transportation, which should be only mildly affected.

In Mainz, there will be a "red district" where only authorized people will be admitted. Outside of the red district, at least six anti-war demonstrations will be held during the president's visit. There will be 15 others the day before, officials said.

Two hot lines have been set up to address transportation issues. In Rheinland-Palatinate, call 0800-1235123. In Hesse, call 0800-0002441. English-speaking operators will be available.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [inigo@mail.estripes.odm](mailto:inigo@mail.estripes.odm)



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

Maps of areas to be closed down in and around the city of Mainz, Germany, during President Bush's visit Feb. 23 are studied by members of the media and German officials Monday at the Rheinland-Palatinate state chancellery office.

## GIs emulate 'Sgt. Morales' by visiting sick at Landstuhl

BY RUSS RIZZIO

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — A handful of 21st Theater Support Command soldiers handed out Valentine's Day baskets of candy and games to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center patients and their families Monday, marking the first event of a newly created regional chapter of the Sgt. Morales Club.

The club, a European counterpart to the stateside Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, was designed to groom non-commissioned officers for leadership positions using senior officers as mentors.

Soldiers are often hand-picked by senior leaders to go through the club's grueling selection process that includes three panel interviews, where applicants are tested on their ability to handle real-world situations.

Sgt. Morales is the fictitious name of an NCO who was put in a leadership position and excelled in the job, according to an Army news release.

Morales demonstrated professionalism and regard for the welfare of his soldiers, the release said.

Those who make it to the cut find themselves on the fast track to promotions, club members said.

"It's all about teaching them and having them go out and plant seeds in others," said 1st Sgt. Charles Shank, 34, of New Orleans, who works to make leaders out of the younger members of the group.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Perkins, 30, of Cincinnati, was tapped to join the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club in 1999 while at Fort Eustis, Va.

He was a "young buck" sergeant at the time and understood that he was being handed an opportunity to develop leadership skills and make a mark within his battalion, Perkins said.

Now, Perkins works to identify young leaders in the Kaiserslautern area.

"We are the (21st Theater Support Command) sergeant major's eyes and ears on the ground," Perkins said.

At the Fisher House next door to the military hospital at Landstuhl, members of the new chapter handed baskets to family members of wounded soldiers and one hospital patient staying there.

The patient, Dennis Wallace of Albuquerque, N.M., a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attorney, avoided more tests for a sinus problem he developed while working in Baghdad.

Reporters were not allowed to tag along as the group handed baskets to wounded soldiers inside the hospital.

Club members said they planned to "adopt" the Fisher House, meaning they would help solicit donations for the house, where families can live while wounded and ill soldiers recover at the hospital.

That came as welcome news to house manager Kathy Gregory. Gregory is not allowed to solicit donations because of Army restrictions on organizations that use non-appropriated funds, she said, even though the house depends on donations to cover about three-fourths of its operating costs.

"One day our ship will come in," Gregory said.

E-mail Russ Rizzio at: [rizzio@mail.estripes.odm](mailto:rizzio@mail.estripes.odm)

## Afghan-bound units' ceremonies delayed

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

GIEBELSTADT, Germany — The Afghanistan-bound 12th Aviation Brigade has postponed a predeployment and transfer-of-authority ceremony while V Corps officials ponder the long-term future of the units.

Capt. James Barber, a spokesman for the Giebelstadt-based unit, said several generals could not attend the ceremony on Tuesday.

He also said the command thought it best to separate the two events and hold them at later dates.

"Instead of [having] one major ceremony, we wanted to give each event the proper attention," he said.

The brigade's headquarters staff is scheduled to leave for a year's service in Afghanistan in March and April along with two of its units from Giebelstadt: the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, a UH-60 Black Hawk unit; and Company F of the 159th Aviation Regiment, a CH-47 Chinook unit.

Also headed to Afghanistan are two units based in nearby Ilseheim: the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, an AH-64 Apache Longbow unit; and the 7th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, an aviation maintenance unit.

This will be the first Afghanistan deployment for all of the battalions, but all are veterans of the first Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation in 2003-04.

Less clear is the future of the two units under 12th Aviation's command not headed for Afghanistan: the 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment; and the 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

V Corps, the 12th Aviation's Heidelberg-based parent command, has acknowledged it is transferring both units to the 1st Armored Division. Giebelstadt sources say they thought the transfer was permanent, a part of the Army's sweeping transformation that is restructuring divisions into brigades and stripping corps-level commands of their combat units.

But a V Corps statement said the command hasn't decided who will command the units after 12th Aviation finishes its Afghanistan tour.

"We are trying to set units in positions and in command-and-control relationships where the chance of further disruption for soldiers and family members is minimized," the statement said.

Hilde Patton, a V Corps spokeswoman, described the reassignment as "indefinite."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewer@mail.estripes.odm](mailto:liewer@mail.estripes.odm)

## Airline tickets policy

Soldiers are responsible for paying new airline fees for paper tickets if they request paper tickets for official travel, the U.S. Army's Installation Management Agency-Europe warned this week.

The policy, triggered by a Delta

Airlines decision last month to charge passengers \$20 for paper tickets on flights where electronic tickets are available, applies to all servicemembers. IMA-Europe spokeswoman Kim Walz said.

Other commercial airlines are expected to implement policies similar to Delta's, Walz said.

Servicemembers can be reimbursed for paper ticket fees only if the tickets are required to complete the mission, if a supervisor authorizes the expense or a specific exception is included on official travel orders, according to an IMA-Europe statement.

From staff reports



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Right: Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, 42nd Infantry Division commander, right, took command of north-central Iraq from Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division, left, on Monday at FOB Danger in Tikrit. Above: Security was heavy at the ceremony as about a hundred Iraqi dignitaries and U.S. civilians attended the transfer of authority to the 42nd Infantry Division from the 1st Infantry Division.

# 1st ID hands command to Guard unit

BY TERRY BOYD  
Stars and Stripes

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Iraq** — Rather than talk about Americans changing authority, Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste emphasized how Iraqis are taking charge.

The end of his division's yearlong deployment brings "irreversible momentum" toward Iraqi participation in self-governance that will thwart the insurgency, Batiste said.

His 1st Infantry Division accomplished a great deal in north-central Iraq, Batiste said during Monday's transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Danger in Tikrit.

With the Jan. 30 elections, the Iraqi people showed the courage to choose their leaders and control their destiny, he said. Quoting an Iraqi woman, the elections "were like a bullet in the heart of the enemy," Batiste said, while acknowledging the 1st ID's own losses of more than 100 soldiers killed and 1,000 wounded.

*The ceremony marked the first time a National Guard unit is the division command over active-duty units in Iraq.*

The Big Red One increased combined operations with new, better-led Iraqi army units and oversaw 2,000 reconstruction projects worth about \$1 billion, he said.

The 1st ID's Task Force Danger gave way to Task Force Liberty under the Troy, N.Y.-based 42nd Infantry Division. The ceremony marked the first time a National Guard unit is the division command over active-duty units in Iraq — in this case brigades from the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga., Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, 42nd ID commander, pledged to maintain momentum.



Taluto took time to thank by name several 1st ID officers and soldiers, including Batiste and Command Sgt. Maj. Corey McCarty, for their assistance in helping the 42nd transition.

While there has been dramatic progress during the last few months, there's much to do, Batiste said in a Sunday interview. The new government must undo decades of Saddam Hussein's Arab-centric, Sunni-based rule and integrate Kurds, Turkmen and Shiite Iraqis, he said.

The 42nd ID's tenure got off to a deadly start. One American soldier was killed and three wounded Monday when a bomb detonated near their patrol in northern Iraq, the military said.

The explosion occurred when the soldiers from Task Force Liberty were on a combat patrol near the town of Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, the U.S. command said in a statement. The identities of the soldiers were withheld pending notification of the family members.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.  
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## Navy, NATO exercise gets new name

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — U.S. and NATO forces are gearing up for the kickoff of a two-week air and sea exercise in the Ionian Sea, east of Sicily.

It's the 30th year for the exercise, which until this year was known as Dogfish but, because of new regulations, this year will be called Noble Marlin.

Under the new rules, exercises must now consist of two words to identify the location of the commanding element and the general mission type, such as air, land, or sea-based, said Navy Capt. Jeff Gradeck, a NATO spokesman.

Because the upcoming exercise is controlled from the NATO regional headquarters in Naples, and is maritime in nature, the first letters needed to be "N" and "M," hence the creation of Noble Marlin, Gradeck said.

The operation will take place between March 3 and 16. Details, such as the number of vessels and a final list of participating nations, won't be released until the end of February, said U.S. Navy Lt. Liubov Russell, an exercise spokeswoman.

Last year, 11 nations participated in Dogfish '04, the alliance's largest annual anti-submarine warfare exercise. This year, 10 nations will be participating.

Combined Task Force 67, headquartered at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, will provide P3 Orion for the exercise, said U.S. Navy Capt. Robert Lally, commander of CTF-67. The task force provides tactical mission support to U.S. and NATO maritime patrol aircraft.

The operation will test anti-submarine, anti-surface and coastal surveillance operations, and sharpen communications between the allied nations' militaries, Lally said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontz@mail.estrines.odm

## Bamberg community prepares for 1st ID return

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany — After a year in a combat zone, single soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division are finding that someone has left the light on for them.

Family readiness groups decorated the barracks and made the beds so that weary soldiers — including those from the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment — can get some much-needed sleep after two days of traveling.

The unit's rear detachment is coordinating the delivery of household goods and vehicle pick-up for the soldiers as soon as possible after their return.

It's a lot of work for the rear detachment's skeleton crew and the family readiness groups, but no one seems to be complaining.

"We aren't worried so much about our time," said Staff Sgt. James Davis, Battery C family readiness leader. "It doesn't really matter if we are working until 8 some nights; these guys have

been working 24-7 for the last year. We don't want them to have to worry about if the bed is made or if the light bulb has burned out."

Some soldiers arranged to have their stored belongings delivered while they were still deployed. The rear detachment set up transportation office appointments for those troops as soon as they are manifested on a return flight, said Capt. Matt Davenport, 1st Field Artillery rear detachment commander.

"All of the soldiers were given the opportunity to have their household goods delivered a few weeks prior to their return," he said. "Some have decided to wait until they get back."

On other deployments, 1-6 Field Artillery soldiers left their belongings in the room, and it was sealed to prevent anyone from entering. On this deployment, the barracks were renovated while the soldiers were gone,



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

**Donated items sit on a bed in the Battery C, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment barracks Monday in Bamberg, Germany. Family members put together care packages and made the beds for single soldiers expected to return from Iraq in the next few weeks.**

so the household goods had to be stored.

The soldiers' vehicles are stored on Warner Barracks. Before they can pick them up, the soldiers must watch a driving

safety video that contains winter driving tips and reminds soldiers that they are not in Iraq anymore.

"They have been driving in Iraq for a year," Davenport said. "The video reminds them that

there are no (improvised explosive devices) in Germany."

"It's OK for other cars to pass you here."

The goal is for soldiers to get their cars on the first or second day home so they can drive to the reintegration training at various locations on Warner Barracks, Davenport said.

Volunteers put signs on the door of each room to greet the soldiers by name, and a care package with snack food and personal hygiene items was placed on every bed. The final touch, a plastic rose or mint, was placed on each pillow, said Christine Kurecz, 1st Field Artillery Family Readiness Group.

"It's our way of saying we appreciate all that they did over this last year," she said.

"The soldiers will really appreciate that," Davenport said. "The first thing they will want to do is rack out."

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# Amputee fights for better insurance

BY SAM HANANIEL

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ever since Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly lost his right leg to a roadside bomb near Baghdad more than a year ago, he has been on a mission. It was more than just learning how to walk again on a prosthetic limb or figuring out what to do with his life after 13 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Kelly, 24, of Prescott, Ariz., saw a need to help other wounded soldiers and their families cope with the financial struggles that come with months of rehabilitation.

In the past month, Kelly and an advocacy group for veterans have persuaded several lawmakers to support the idea of creating a self-financed insurance plan that would award \$50,000 to severely disabled soldiers before Veterans Affairs' benefits kick in. The federal money can take a year or more to get to recipients.

The idea allows those in the military to buy a new kind of disability insurance for a low monthly fee is supported by Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Ariz. He said he plans to introduce legislation that would make that happen.

"I don't know how you could say no to this," Renzi said. "There's these burgeoning costs that go with the families of these wounded guys that many times aren't covered."

VA spokesman Terry Jenkinson said the agency is familiar with Kelly's idea, but has not taken a position on it. The Pentagon would not comment on the plan. Injured soldiers become eligible

for VA benefits after their discharge. But it can be more than a year before those benefits are available, based on the recovery period. Soldiers continue receiving military pay during hospitalization, but often the money does not cover all of a family's expenses.

Extended hospital stays can require a soldier's spouse or parent to leave work for months at a time, depriving the family of income and sometimes meaning costly travel costs expenses during a stressful time.

Kelly heard story after story about soldiers losing homes or racking up debt during their convalescence. He began working on a solution with officials at United Spinal Association, a group that serves both veterans and nonveterans.

Renzi, a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said the timing is right because of President Bush's proposal to increase life insurance and "death gratuity" payments to families of troops killed in combat.

"I think the chances are great that this thing could move," said Rep. J.D. Hayworth, R-Ariz., who plans to co-sponsor the legislation. "It can be a godsend."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., the committee's former chairman, also plans to sign on.

Soldiers would pay about \$3 per month, deducted from their pay, to qualify for a \$50,000 payment in the event of a major injury in combat or training related to combat. The money would go out within days to soldiers who lose a limb or use of a limb, suffer severe burns, or lose their sight, hearing or speech.



Iraq war veteran Ryan Kelly, who lost his leg to a roadside bomb, was on Capitol Hill to lobby Congress for better benefits for wounded soldiers. Behind him is Jeremy Chwat, public policy director for the United Spinal Association.

# Homeless veteran gets military burial

BY MATT CURRY

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Harold Dean Harris died homeless and destitute in an abandoned building and might have gone to a pauper's grave if not for the military papers found in his wallet.

An Army veteran, he was buried Thursday with full military honors. No friends or family came, and no old Army buddies swapped stories. But it was a soldier's farewell, the morning air broken by a 21-gun salute fired by a group of paralyzed veterans.

Harris, 63, and another homeless Army veteran, Hayden Glyn Kresge, 53, were laid to rest at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery because of a partnership between the Veterans Affairs Department and a nationwide funeral home network that has paid for military burials for over the past two years.

Very little was known about either man, both of whom served two-year Army stints decades earlier. Military officials could not immediately say where the two men served. Neither had relatives or friends at their brief, back-to-back ceremonies.

A few VA officials came to pay



Sgt. Kristopher Tate, left, and SPC. Patrick DeBord, U.S. Army honor guards from Fort Hood, Texas, fold a flag in front of the casket carrying the body of homeless veteran Harold Dean Harris as other homeless veteran pallbearers look on in the background in Dallas. The pallbearers are, from left to right, Dave Milliner, Juan Lee and Emory Leadbetter.

tribute, and a group of homeless men acted as pallbearers.

"Without you who came out on this cold day, these men would have had to go to their graves alone," said Cindy Simpson of Dignity Memorial Funeral Providers, the funeral home network.

Disabled American Veterans chaplain Cynthia Burks received the flag from Harris' flag-draped

casket. Moving with military precision, Michael Riley, deputy commander of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, wheeled forward to give Burks three polished brass rounds from the rifle volleys, representing duty, honor and country.

"When one is in need, we'll be right there beside them," Burks said tearfully. "It was an honor to

accept this flag."

The Rev. Alton Jones, a former homeless veteran himself, officiated at both services.

Veterans are eligible for Dignity burials if they were homeless and honorably discharged and no one comes forward to claim the body.

Dignity pays costs not covered by the VA, such as the casket and a hearse.

# DOD probes more Boeing contracts

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is investigating eight additional Air Force contracts to determine whether they were manipulated or influenced illegally by Darleen Druyan, a former Air Force official who was convicted last year of giving Boeing Co. special treatment on a tanker lease deal.

The eight contracts range in value from \$42 million to \$1.5 billion and their total value is about \$3 billion, according to a summary provided by the Pentagon on Monday.

Michael Wynne, the acting chief of Pentagon acquisition programs, told reporters that the eight contracts were identified as suspicious from among 407 reviewed by a team of military and civilian contracting experts. They referred the eight to the Pentagon's inspector general.

The eight are in addition to seven others that already are being investigated.

Wynne stressed that it is not yet clear that any of the additional eight have been tainted. They were picked for further investigation because they "seemed to be out of the normal process."

The review and investigations are an outgrowth of revelations about Druyan's handling of the multimillion-dollar deal with Boeing that would have allowed the Air Force to lease a fleet of new aerial refueling aircraft. Congress eventually killed the deal because of Druyan's involvement.

Druyan was an Air Force acquisition executive who later was hired by Boeing as a top executive. Last fall she pleaded guilty on felony charges and was sentenced to nine months in prison.

Boeing's former chief financial officer, Michael Sears, has also pleaded guilty for his role in hiring Druyan.

The eight contracts that were referred for further investigation were awarded between 1998 and 2002, Wynne said. The contractors involved are Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Andersen Consulting, Systems & Electronics Inc., and Pemco. The biggest was a \$1.5 billion award to a Boeing-Pemco team in 2000-01 for depot maintenance for the Air Force's KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft.

# Rebate can help troops

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Rhode Island taxpayers can donate a portion of their tax rebate this year to help the state's military personnel.

The Rhode Island Military Relief Fund Tax Check-Off went into effect for the first time this year, allowing the state's taxpayers to use a portion of their 2004 tax refunds to aid soldiers' families. The fund provides financial support for the families of the state's National Guard and Reserve soldiers, according to The Providence Journal.

From The Associated Press

# Army creates badge for non-infantry GIs

By LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — After 60 years of debate, Army officials have finally decided to create a badge for non-infantry soldiers that recognizes their direct participation in ground combat.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented the new Close Combat Badge, or CCB, to a cadre of senior officers Friday during a regularly scheduled meeting of four-star Army generals, according to Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army personnel spokesman.

The new badge will be the equivalent of the Army's Combat Infantryman Badge, which was created in 1943.

The CCB, in the form of a rifle surrounded by a wreath, is reserved for infantry and Special Forces soldiers only.

The Close Combat Badge will be awarded to soldiers with military occupational specialties in armor, the cavalry, combat engineering, and field artillery. Officers must have a branch or specialty recognized in Army regulations as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

The CCB will be presented only to soldiers who are engaged in active ground combat, moving to contact and destroy the enemy with direct fire.

All soldiers are allowed to wear their unit patch on their right shoulder as a "combat patch" after spending 30 days in an authorized combat theater.

## Proposed criteria for badge

**Who is eligible:** Colonel or below for officers; all enlisted soldiers are eligible

Enlisted soldiers must have a Military Occupational Specialty in Armor or Cavalry (CMF 19), Artillery (CMF 13), or Combat Engineer (CMF 12)

Officers must have a branch or specialty officially recognized in Army Regulation 611-1 as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat"

**Soldiers must be:**

- Assigned or attached to an Army brigade or smaller unit that is purposely organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat in accordance with existing Army rules and policy
- Under fire while engaged in active

ground combat, to moving into contact and destroy the enemy with direct fire

Battle or campaign participation is not sufficient to qualify for this award; the unit must have been in active ground combat

**Additional eligible personnel:**

- If all other criteria are met, eligibility may include other services and foreign soldiers assigned to Army units of brigade and below.

**Effective date:** Sept. 11, 2001 (retroactive)

**Note:** As of Feb. 14, this criterion was "pre-decisional," meaning that it has not yet been fully approved by Army or Defense Department officials.

Source: U.S. Army

While prestigious, however, the wear of this unit patch as a combat designator does not necessarily indicate that the wearer was involved in direct ground fighting.

That is the purpose of the Combat Infantryman Badge and a Combat Medical Badge, which is reserved for Army, Navy and Air Force medics. These were the only two Army symbols that indicate that the wearer has come under direct enemy fire.

Combat badges are different from military medals. Medals and the ribbons that

represent them are worn only on a soldier's mess dress and Class "A" and "B" uniforms, never on battle dress uniforms.

But the badges, which are rectangular pieces of metal when worn on the dress or Class "A" and "B" uniforms, are also worn as a fabric patch above the right-hand breast pocket of the BDUs — acting as a "visual recognition of close combat" whenever a soldier is in uniform, Hilferty said.

The creation of the new Close Combat Badge closes a debate that soldiers have

been "talking about since the 1940s," when the CIB was established, Hilferty said in a Monday telephone interview.

Soldiers and their leaders have argued over the years that the infantry and Special Forces are not the only two branches of the Army that get into firefights.

The Army has periodically reviewed the criteria for the Combat Infantry Badge, but it wasn't until the conventional wars in Iraq and Afghanistan turned into insurgencies that the non-infantry soldiers' point of view gained increased momentum.

So, at the request of commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan, last year Schoomaker approved the creation of a task force to look at creating a new combat badge to widen the pool of soldiers recognized for their actions under fire, Hilferty said.

More details about the new Close Combat Badge, including its design and the procedure for soldiers to request the award, will be unveiled later this week, Hilferty said.

Army officials said they are hoping that Lt. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's chief of personnel, will personally announce those details.

A March administrative message will follow that formally outlines the exact rules and regulations, officials said.

The new badge should be available this fall through unit supply and also for purchase in military clothing sales stores.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgess@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgess@stripes.osd.mil)

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,461 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,111 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 11 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at the end of last Friday.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,323 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,002 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- Three U.S. soldiers were killed Sunday when their vehicle rolled into a canal near Balad, Iraq.

- A U.S. soldier was killed Sunday in hostile action near Samarra, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

- Army Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Shepherd, 26, Lynchburg, Va., killed Friday when an explosive detonated during clearing operations in Baghdad; assigned to the 767th Ordnance Company, 63rd Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

- Army Spc. Robert A. McNeil, 30, Meridian, Miss., killed Friday in a vehicle accident in Iskandariyah, Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guard's 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team, Quantico, Miss.
- Army Staff Sgt. William T. Robbins, 31, North Little Rock, Ark.; died Thursday in Tajikistan, Iraq; of noncombat injuries; assigned to the Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade, Little Rock, Ark.

## GI, three Iraq troops killed in blast

### Rebels attack pipeline

By CHRIS TOMLINSON

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Roadside bombs killed a U.S. soldier and three Iraqi National Guard troops Monday and officials said insurgents blew up an oil pipeline near Kirkuk and killed two senior police officers in Baghdad. Political leaders, meanwhile, sized up their positions in a new government.

One American soldier was killed and three wounded Monday when a bomb detonated near their patrol in northern Iraq, the military said. The explosion occurred when the soldiers from Task Force Liberty were on a combat patrol near the town of Baqouba, 53 miles northeast of Baghdad, the U.S. command said in a statement.

Police in Mosul said gunmen ambushed a police vehicle transporting a suspected insurgent south of the city on Monday. Two police officers were killed, two wounded and the suspect escaped.

Insurgents fired six mortars at a police station in central Baghdad, injuring three, police said.

Another insurgent mortar attack in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, killed a woman and a two-year-old girl, as well as injuring seven others, said Dr. Alaa Al-Din Muhammed of Samarra Hospital.

In Baghdad, gunmen firing from a car killed two high-ranking policemen Sunday night, an Interior Ministry official said. He provided no other details.

Insurgents damaged an oil pipeline Sunday at the North Oil Company's Al-Dibbis oil field near Kirkuk, setting it on fire, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammad Amin. The pipeline supplied oil for internal use and the damage will hamper the country's oil production, he said.

It would take workers at least three days



Iraqis stand in front of a burning oil pipeline Monday after insurgents blew it up at the North Oil Company's Al-Dibbis oil field near Kirkuk, in the northern Kurdish area of Iraq.

to extinguish the blaze and repair the pipeline, Amin said.

The Al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq also claimed responsibility for a number of attacks Sunday in statements posted on a militant Web site. The claims could be independently verified.

The violence comes after election officials announced the results of the Jan. 30 elections.

Meanwhile, kidnappers of a Swedish citizen in Iraq have demanded a ransom for his freedom and threatened to decapitate him if they don't receive it, a Stockholm radio station reported Monday.

The kidnappers, who call themselves "The Martyr al-Isawi Brigades," also want Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf to take

part in negotiations for the freedom of Minas Ibrahim al-Yousifi, the purported leader of the Christian Democratic Party in Iraq, his family told Radio Joonkeoping over the weekend.

An Iraqi translator for Italian troops and his son were shot to death Sunday in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, a spokesman for Italy's military said. The spokesman said officials were investigating and so far had no leads. The exact circumstances of the shooting were unclear.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army militant group claimed in an Internet statement Sunday that it had kidnapped an Iraqi Christian translator who worked at a U.S. military base. The claim, posted on a Web site known as a clearing house for militant statements, could not be immediately verified.

# Photos from the Front

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**ABOVE** Spec. Wesley Zollman, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, Iowa National Guard, mans a .50-caliber machine gun outside the governors' conference in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Bradley Ritten/U.S. Army

**BELOW** An airman guides a Humvee off a C-17 Globemaster at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, during the rotation of troops.

Catie Hague/U.S. Air Force



**TOP RIGHT** Senior Airman Shelley Jones, an aircraft structural maintenance specialist with the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, cleans the paint off of an A-10 wing pylon. Jones is deployed to Bagram from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

Catie Hague/U.S. Air Force



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# Post-vote alliances emerge among Iraqis

## Shiite ticket leader talks with advisers

By ROBERT H. REID  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Talks on who would get what in Iraq's newly elected National Assembly were under way even before the final results came in, but the clergy-backed Shiites, whose winning margin was less than what they expected, may now have to compromise more than anticipated.

With barely 50 percent of the final vote in the 275-member National Assembly, the United Iraqi Alliance will not have control over the assembly, leading to speculation it may soon form a coalition with the independence-minded Kurds, who won 26 percent of the vote. A two-thirds majority is needed to control the legislature.

Abdel-Aziz Al-Hakim, the Shiite ticket's leader, was meeting with political allies at his office Monday afternoon, associates said.

Al-Hakim, who lost 19 family members to Saddam Hussein's executioners, sat and wept as he heard the results on Sunday. He later told Iraqi television of the need for cooperation with disenchanted Sunnis already alienated in postwar Iraq.

"We believe in the need for participation and will seek harmony among all segments of the Iraqi people," he said.

The election results highlighted the sharp differences among Iraq's ethnic, religious and cultural groups — many of whom fear domination not just by the Shiites, estimated at 60 percent of the population, but also by the Kurds, the most pro-American group and about 15 percent of the population.

Seats will generally be allocated according to the percentage of votes that each ticket won. It appeared only 12 coalitions would take seats. The Shiites stand to gain up to 140 seats and the Kurds could end up with about 75.

"This is a great victory for the Iraqi people," said Ahmad al-Halabi, a former Pentagon protégé and member of the Shiite ticket who is lobbying for the prime minister's post. "We will have an assembly which is elected by the people and the government which is completely legitimate and elected by the people."

Other leading contenders for the top post include fellow Shiites Ibrahim Jaafari, a vice president; Finance Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi; and former nuclear scientist Hussain al-Shahrastani.

Abdul-Mahdi told the media outlet al-Arabiya that the next Iraqi government is burdened with "difficult and complicated responsibilities that require national unity and the wide support of the national assembly" and the presidency. He said his alliance is "seeking to realize a wide national harmony in choosing" for those positions.

Sunday's published results threw immedi-



A Kurdish man waves a Kurdish flag as he runs through the streets of Kirkuk, Iraq, despite a curfew. He was celebrating a strong electoral result for the Kurds on Sunday.

ate focus on Iraqi leaders' backdoor dealmaking to create a new coalition government and on efforts to lure Sunnis into the fold and away from a bloody insurgency.

Election commission officials would not say Monday when the new National Assembly was expected to meet. Competitors have two more days to lodge complaints or dispute the results announced Sunday.

Then, election official Adel al Lami said, the commission will hand the results to the current interim government, which will then decide when to formally transfer authority to the incoming National Assembly.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, the secular Shiite chosen by the United States to lead this country for the last eight turbulent months, fared poorly — his ticket finishing a distant third behind the religious Shiites and Kurds.

Iraqi Kurds danced in the streets and waved Kurdish flags when results were announced in the oil-rich, ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk. Thousands more Kurds — a people who were gassed and forced from their homes by Saddam's forces — turned out in Sulaimaniyah, firing weapons in the air and carrying posters of their leaders.

Overall, national turnout was about 60 percent, the commission said — but only 2 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots in Anbar province, the Sunni insurgent stronghold that includes Ramadi and Fallujah.

**National Independent Elites and Cadres Party:** 69,938 for three seats

**The Communist Party:** 69,920 for two seats  
**The Islamic Kurdish Society:** 60,592 for two seats

**The Islamic Labor Movement in Iraq:** 43,205 for two seats

**The National Democratic Alliance:** 36,795 for one seat

**National Rafidain List (Assyrian Christians):** 36,358 for one seat

**The Reconciliation and Liberation Entity:** 30,796 for one seat

**Total votes:** 8,550,571.  
**Invalid votes:** 94,305.

**Minimum number of votes to qualify for one seat:** 30,750.

From Iraq's election commission via The Associated Press

## How did they do?

A look at major figures in Iraq's elections and how they fared in released results:

### Winners

**Abdel-Aziz Al-Hakim:** Al-Hakim, head of the United Iraqi Alliance, the major Shiite political alliance,

oversaw the effort to send millions of Shiites to the polls. The cleric leader's success in his alliance won nearly half of the ballot cast in the election — ensures Shiites will have a prominent hand in drafting the country's constitution.

**Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani:** Leaders of two key Kurdish parties that earned more than a quarter of votes cast. The Kurdish alliance they represent will now have considerable support in the national assembly to preserve Kurdish autonomy in northern Iraq.

Al-Hakim

### Also-rans

**Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi:** Allawi did not join the United Iraqi Alliance, instead leading his own group that came in a distant third place, with about 14 percent of the vote. Despite the lackluster showing, the U.S.-based politician's role in the future government is uncertain — Allawi maintains close ties with the Kurds and no party won a majority in the election, meaning the parties will have to agree on a consensus leader.

Allawi

## Bush praises candidates

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Monday it looks forward to working with Iraq's new leaders and said the United States is confident that Baghdad is committed to an "inclusive and representative" government.

President Bush issued a congratulatory message as a coalition dominated by Shiite Islamic parties emerged with the most votes from Iraq's historic election.

"The world saw long lines of Iraqi men and women voting in a free and fair election for the first time in their lives," he said Sunday. "The United States and our coalition partners can all take pride in our role in making that great day possible."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan, at a briefing Monday, echoed Bush's upbeat tone. "We look forward to working with the new government and supporting them as they move forward... on putting the leadership in place, drafting a constitution and then holding an election at the end of the year for a permanent representative government."

## EU urges unity

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union on Monday congratulated the winners in Iraq's elections and urged them to ensure all Iraqis are represented during the drafting of a new constitution.

"The preliminary publication of results from Iraq's first pluralist elections marks another step forward in Iraq's political transition," said Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU external affairs commissioner.

In a statement, Ferrero-Waldner said the EU "looks to those who have been elected to assume the responsibility of governing Iraq in the name of the whole Iraqi people."

"I trust they will ensure full representation of Iraq's diverse society in the political process, and in particular in the drafting of the constitution," she added.

### The winners

BAGHDAD — A list of the 12 political alliances that received the most votes in Iraq's Jan. 30 national elections and the number of seats they will receive in the 275-member National Assembly, provided the results are certified.

**The United Iraqi Alliance (Shiite alliance backed by Shiite Muslim clergy):** 4,075,295 — about 48 percent — for 140 seats  
**The Islamic Labor Movement in Iraq:** 43,205 — about 14 percent — for 40 seats  
**Two main Kurdish factions:** 2,175,551 — about 26 percent — for 75 seats

**The Iraqi List backed by U.S.-backed interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi:** 36,358 — about 14 percent — for 40 seats  
**Iraqis (headed by interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer):** 150,680 for five seats

**The Turkmen Iraqi Front (represents ethnic Turks):** 93,480 for three seats



# Loose cash across Iraq?

## Ex-adviser expected to talk about 'Wild West' banking

BY LARRY MARGASAK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former U.S. occupation official in Iraq thought he was in the Wild West in 2003 as he watched colleagues pull \$2 million in fresh bills from a vault and stuff them in a contractor's gunnysack.

Cash payments that weren't stuffed in sacks were made from a pickup truck that bore the name of Iraq's grounded airline.

American authorities thought the vehicle would "meld into the environment," the ex-official, Frank Willis, said.

Willis, who was a senior adviser in aviation and telecommunications, was expected to describe his experience Monday to a panel of Democratic senators. The hearing is to spotlight the waste of money in Iraq by the former occupation agency, the Coalition Provisional Authority.

Because Iraq had no functioning banking system in 2003, money was kept in a basement vault in CPA headquarters, a former palace of Saddam Hussein.

Officials from the CPA, which ruled Iraq from June 2003 to June 2004, would count the money when it left the vault, but nobody kept track of the cash after that, Willis said.

"In sum: inexperienced officials, fear of decision-making, lack of communications, minimal security, no banks and lots of money to spread around.



Frank Willis, left, a former Coalition Provisional Authority adviser, and Darrell Trent stand in front of a pile of money in Baghdad in 2003.

This chaos I have referred to as a 'Wild West.' " Willis said in testimony submitted to the Democratic Policy Committee.

James Mitchell, spokesman for the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, said in an interview that cash payments in Iraq were a problem when the occupation authority ran the country, and they continue during the massive U.S.-funded reconstruction.

The Pentagon, which had oversight of the CPA, did not comment in response to requests Friday and over the weekend.

# Senator hopes to ease financial burden on reservists' families

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING  
The Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — When duty called him to Afghanistan, Dr. Anthony Carter closed his family medical practice in the tiny Kentucky town of Tompkinsville and laid off his 10 employees. The Army reservist relished the chance to treat wounded soldiers. But Carter worried about mounting bills, his children in college and his former workers.

Many soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq suffer from the so-called "patriot penalty" — the gap between what deployed Guard and Reserve troops are paid and their civilian salaries. Legislation being proposed would eliminate that penalty by reimbursing troops for up to \$50,000 of their lost income.

For Carter, the difference was in the tens of thousands of dollars, and it meant having to borrow money to reopen his practice after nine months away in 2003.

Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, a Democrat, is proposing a measure to eliminate the "patriot penalty" and offer tax breaks up to \$15,000 annually to corporations that supplement the incomes of employees called to service.

Bayh said he would offer his plan as an amendment to President Bush's proposal to boost gov-

ernment payments to families of U.S. troops killed at war.

About half of all troops in Iraq are in the Guard and Reserves.

Based on a Pentagon study, Bayh estimates 40 percent of those troops make less money while deployed.

"These families are trying to do the right thing for our country, and it's not right they should be struggling when we're in the right position to help them out," Bayh said.

But some question whether his program — costing about \$250 million a year — is the best use of resources.

"This is a difficult environment right now and there are so many needs," said John Gohene, spokesman for the National Guard Association of the United States. "It becomes difficult to say yes, we support it, or whether we don't. It's a real tough issue."

Bayh said most payouts would be a few thousand dollars — a small amount "compared to the tens of billions we're spending annually in Iraq." He believes they could help with recruiting and re-enlistment efforts at a time when the Guard is stretched thin.

Not all troops would qualify. Some make more in the battlefield than in the civilian sector. Those who are single often come home with thousands in savings.

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## IN THE WORLD

## Bombers kills former Lebanese prime minister

BY BASSEM MROUE  
AND JOSEPH PANOSSIAN  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A massive bomb tore through former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's motorcade, assassinating the billionaire businessman who helped rebuild his country after decades of war but resigned last fall amid a sharp dispute with Syria.

At least nine other people were killed and 100 wounded, including a former economy minister. The blast raised immediate fears that Lebanon — largely peaceful since the 1990 end of its civil war — was headed toward a new and bloody twist in its divisive dispute over the role of Syria, which

## Assassination also kills at least 9 others

maintains about 15,000 troops in the country.

The Lebanese National News Agency, quoting a statement from American University Hospital, said Hariri was pronounced dead on arrival, his body mutilated.

Some 660 pounds of TNT explosives were used in the bombing, security officials said on condition of anonymity.

They did not say whether the explosives were placed in a vehicle or on the side of the street.

Following an emergency Cabinet meeting, Information Minister Elie Ferzli told reporters that

government will refer the case to the Higher Judiciary Council that looks into political and state security crimes.

The government also asked local media to avoid "acts that would lead to sedition" and issued instructions to identify the perpetrators.

Lebanon's Supreme Council for Defense instructed the army and internal security forces "to take all necessary measures to control the security situation." The council, which groups the president, Cabinet ministers and military officials, declared three days of national mourning.

President Emile Lahoud, a long time rival of Hariri, issued a statement saying the killing was "a dark point in our national history." He promised the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

There were no credible claims of responsibility. However, a previously unknown group, calling itself Support and Jihad in Syria and Lebanon, said it had carried out the bombing. It said the attack was a suicide operation and would be followed by more attacks "against infidels, renegades and tyrants."

President Bush was "shocked

and angered" by the assassination, said White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

McClellan said the assassination was "a terrible reminder that the Lebanese people must be able to pursue their aspirations and determine their own political future, free from violence, and intimidation and free from Syrian occupation."

Hariri's assassination removes a main political buffer in a country divided among an opposition strongly opposed to Syria's role, and the pro-Syrian government camp. He was killed after attending a parliamentary debate where the two camps are divided over a new election law for polls due in April and May.

## Deadly bombs hit Philippines

BY PAUL ALEXANDER  
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Three bombs jolted Manila and two other Philippine cities Monday, killing at least nine people and wounding more than 100 others, police said. The Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf claimed responsibility for the blasts.

The group said the bombings were retribution for a major military offensive against Islamic militants in the southern Philippines, where 60 people have been killed in recent clashes.

"You can attribute this to us," an Abu Sayyaf leader, Abu Solaiman, told DZBB radio 20 minutes after Manila's first two blasts.

"There is one more to come," he said before the Manila bombing.

In a second telephone call, Solaiman said the bombings were a Valentine's Day "gift" to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

National police head Gen. Edgar Aglipay ordered the 114,000-men-



Police investigators inspect the scene where a bomb exploded Monday inside a bus in Makati, Philippines, killing three people and injuring 60 others. Extremist group Abu Sayyaf claimed responsibility, police said.

ber police force to tighten security in vital installations and commercial establishments nationwide.

The Manila bombing occurred about 7:30 p.m. on a bus along a busy highway just below a station for an elevated train and near the Intercontinental Hotel. Police said three people were killed and at least 60 others injured.

A blast outside the Gaisano Mall in southern General Santos city about an hour earlier could be

heard one mile away, witnesses said.

Police said at least five people were killed and at least 36 others injured.

Another bomb, believed to have been made from a mortar shell, killed a 12-year-old boy and injured at least eight people when it went off almost simultaneously at a bus terminal in Davao, also in the southern Philippines, home to a sizable Muslim minority, terror groups and criminal gangs.

## Serbian leader has tense visit to Kosovo

BY MISHA SAVIC  
The Associated Press

ORAHOVAC, Serbia-Montenegro — A visit by Serbia's president to the disputed province of Kosovo fueled tensions Monday, with demonstrators pelting the convoy carrying the president with snow balls, eggs and stones.

United Nations officials had hoped the visit by Boris Tadic would promote reconciliation between Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority and Serb minority.

But Tadic's declarations that Serbia would never accept an independent Kosovo angered ethnic Albanians, who want Kosovo to be granted independence in talks on the province's future expected to start later this year.

Kosovo Serbs and Belgrade want Kosovo to remain part of Serbia.

Several ethnic Albanian newspapers on Monday published a photo of Tadic holding a Serb flag during the first day of this two-day visit.

On Monday, Tadic called the position of Kosovo's Serbs "the worst of any ethnic group in Europe" during a visit to the central town of Orhovac and called for more international help to support them.

The tensions underline the difficulties that the international efforts in Kosovo face in their efforts to promote reconciliation and establish a multiethnic society in the province, which has been an international protectorate since the end of the war in 1999.

The Kosovo war erupted when ethnic Albanians rebelled to fight for independence from Serbia. The brutality of the Serb response triggered NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999 that ended Belgrade's rule in the province.

Earlier Monday, he lauded several hundred Serbs for staying in Kosovo despite their fragile security situation.

"I admire your endurance to stay here despite all the difficulties and challenges," Tadic said.

## Coroner's report

KUWAIT CITY — The coroner's report says accused terror leader Amer al-Fozzi died of heart failure and there were no signs of torture, the interior minister said Monday, hoping to put an end to suspicions raised by Muslim fundamentalists.

"The forensics report is clear," said Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah. "There are no signs of torture on his body, and the cause of death is heart failure."

## Taliban truce in works

KABUL, Afghanistan — Senior Taliban members have agreed to join a reconciliation process to be announced soon by the Afghan government, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan said on Monday.

Zalmay Khalilzad said there had been a "positive response"

to overtures from U.S. and Afghan officials, which have intensified in recent months.

"Quite a number of people associated with the Taliban have taken advantage of it already and... they've come in, and some senior members have also come in," Khalilzad said at a news conference.

## Warning note

MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan — Security forces found a slain man's body dumped in a town square in a tribal region of northwest Pakistan on Monday with a note attached warning people against spying for the United States, officials said.

Authorities were trying to establish the identity of the victim, found in Mir Ali, a town in North Waziristan, near the Afghanistan border.

From The Associated Press

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## Unstable skyscraper



The Windsor Building in Madrid, Spain, remains standing Sunday after it was gutted by a raging fire. A large construction crane is still perched on the roof atop the unstable building's blackened frame. Streets around the building were cordoned off for a third day and many nearby businesses remained shut by government order

# Spain seeks 74,000-year terms for 9/11 suspects

BY DANIEL WOOLLS

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A Spanish prosecutor said Monday he will seek jail terms of more than 74,000 years for each of three suspected al-Qaida members charged with using Spain as a staging ground for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

A trial is expected to start some time in mid-March but no date has been set, the National Court said. Spain will be only the second country worldwide to put Sept. 11 suspects on trial.

Prosecutor Pedro Rubira said that for each of the three suspects he is seeking 25 years in jail for each of the people killed in the suicide airplane attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Those three men are the al-

leged leader of a Spain-based al-Qaida cell, Imad Yarkas, and two alleged accomplices, Driss Chelbi and Ghasoub al-Abrash Ghalyoun. Chelbi is Moroccan while the other two are of Syrian origin.

Rubira said the official death toll for Sept. 11 was 2,973, so each man faces a possible jail term of more than 74,000 years.

The three are among 21 people who are to stand trial in Spain.

The other 18, however, are charged with belonging to a terrorist organization — not with actually helping plan the Sept. 11 attacks.

The other defendants include al-Jazeera journalist Tayssir Alouny, for whom the prosecutor is seeking nine years in prison, and Yusuf Galan, a Spanish convert to Islam who faces a sentence of 18 years.

The case stems from an indictment issued in September 2003 by Spain's leading anti-terrorism judge, Baltasar Garzon, against 35 people, later broadened to 40.

Garzon charged that Yarkas, a used-car salesman, provided financing and logistics for key Sept. 11 plotters. In the indictment, Garzon wrote that "it has become crystal clear" that

Yarkas "had links to some of the perpetrators of the massacre."

Investigators on both sides of the Atlantic say that Spain — along with Germany — was a key staging ground for Sept. 11.

In July 2001, Mohamed Atta — believed to have piloted one of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center — attended a meeting in the northeastern Tarragona region of Spain that Garzon said was used to plan last-minute details such as the exact date of the attack.

The 21 who will stand trial are in Spanish custody.

The rest of those indicted by Garzon are either fugitives, such as Osama bin Laden himself, or in custody in other countries.

Such is the case of Ramzi Binalshibh, a Yemeni suspected of being a key contact person with bin Laden's terror network for an al-Qaida cell based in Hamburg, Germany.

He was arrested on the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in Pakistan and is now in secret U.S. custody.

Those not in Spanish custody cannot be tried in absentia because the charge is terrorism. In Spain, such trials are held only for lesser offenses. Many of those in custody in Spain were arrested in November 2001.

## Last of 'Fatima vision' threesome dies at 97

The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Sister Lucia Marto, the last of three children who claimed to have seen the Virgin Mary in a series of 1917 apparitions in the town of Fatima, has died, Portuguese media reported. She was 97.

Sister Lucia, a Roman Catholic nun, had been ill for the past three months and died Sunday at the Convent of Carmelitas in Coimbra, 120 miles north of Lisbon, TSF radio reported, citing family sources.

Prime Minister Pedro Santana Lopes called Lucia's death "very emotional news."

Lucia and two of her cousins, siblings Jacinta and Francisco, said in 1917 that the Virgin Mary had been appearing to them once a month and predicting events, such as world wars, the re-emergence of Christianity in Russia, and one that Church officials say foretold the 1981 attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. The appearances took place on the 13th day of each month in Fatima, a town about 70 miles north of Lisbon.

The first sighting was May 13, and the appearances continued for another five months, ending abruptly in October.

Shortly after, Jacinta and Fran-

cisco died of respiratory diseases. But Lucia became a nun and penned two memoirs while living in convents.

The Catholic Church later built a shrine in Fatima, which is visited each year by millions of people from around the world.

More than 100,000 people from dozens of countries routinely attend the annual commemorations of the sightings.

The pope has visited three times since becoming pontiff in 1978, spending a few minutes with Lucia during a 1991 trip to the site.

He has claimed the Virgin of Fatima saved his life after he was shot by a Turkish gunman in St. Peter's Square in 1981. The attack, on May 13, coincided with the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, and John Paul credits the Virgin's intercession for his survival.

In 2000, he visited Fatima to beatify Jacinta and Francisco.

The funeral was scheduled for Tuesday, TSF reported.



Sister Lucia

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DNA test results proved Jenita, right, and Murugupillai Jayarajah, center, left, are the parents of "Baby 81," a baby boy rescued from tsunami debris in Sri Lanka. The Jayarahs talk with their lawyer S.H.M. Manarudeen Monday at their residence in Kalmunai.

# DNA confirms couple's claim of tsunami baby

BY KRISHNAN FRANCIS  
The Associated Press

KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka — DNA test results confirm that a baby boy rescued from tsunami debris in Sri Lanka and dubbed "Baby 81" belongs to the couple who launched a wrenching court battle for his custody, a court announced Monday.

The finding ended weeks of uncertainty and drama surrounding the infant, who became a symbol of families torn apart by the Dec. 26 tsunami, and set the stage for a reunion Wednesday with his parents Jenita and Murugupillai Jayarajah.

"I am so happy, and I only have to thank God for giving my child back," Murugupillai, the boy's father, said. "We've got the results for all our hardships."

Nine couples originally claimed the boy in the coastal town of Kalmunai. The Jayarahs were the only couple to file a formal claim, but they couldn't document it because their records were swept away in the tsunami.

The court had ruled that the baby must stay in the hospital until DNA tests could

confirm his parentage, and the family underwent the testing Feb. 9.

The judge issued the results from an envelope during a hearing attended only by lawyers Monday, read them aloud and then ordered the couple, hospital officials and baby to appear before the court on Wednesday.

"Since they are the biological parents, I have noticed them to appear on that day and they will hand over the baby," Kalmunai Judge M.P. Mohaideen said.

"The reason they had to go through a DNA test is to ensure that the baby is not discriminated against," Mohaideen said. "This is the first such case in Sri Lanka and it is a historic case."

The couple's lawyer, S.H.M. Manarudeen, was embraced by a weeping Murugupillai after he broke the news to the Jayarahs.

"We will go and see the baby this evening. We're happy," said Jenita, the baby's mother.

The child's name is Abilash, and he was born Oct. 19, the Jayarahs say. He was pulled from his mother's arms when the tsunami hit on Dec. 26, they say.

## Teen kills 1 in Japan school stabbing

BY KOZO MIZOGUCHI  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A 17-year-old burst into at a public school in Neyagawa City outside Osaka, a police spokesman said.

No students were hurt in the attack at a public school in Neyagawa City outside Osaka, a police spokesman said.

Police arrested a teenage boy in the school's faculty room, saying he used an 8-inch kitchen knife to stab two teachers and a school nutritionist. They found him smoking a cigarette in the room as frightened teachers watched from a distance, Noda said.

"I couldn't believe it," said the principal, Hirokazu Sakane, at a nationally televised news conference. "It is unforgivable. It is especially mortifying that a staff member lost his life."

The arrested teenager, whose name was not released because he is a minor, had graduated from the school, said a school board official, Hirokazu Kashiwama.

Japanese media reported that the boy started regularly skipping class while in elementary school. Kashiwama did not have information on his attendance record.

School security has also been a rising concern in Japan since a man with a history of mental illness killed eight children in a slashing rampage at an Osaka elementary school in 2001.

## 'Tiger's roar': North Korea continues to talk tough

BY SANG-HUN CHOE  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — For many across the world, North Korea's announcement last week that it has nuclear weapons raises worries of nuclear Armageddon and a new arms race in Asia. For North Koreans, it was the tiger's roar at the yapping mutt of the United States.

"We shouldn't be too concerned about their (the Americans') snarling. That's the way they have always been. They seem to snarl more often these days, but that's just bluffing," North Korean leader Kim Jong Il said in comments replayed Sunday on state-run Pyongyang Radio.

"But if they do not stop yapping, we then give them a stern tiger's roar."

Whatever North Korea's real intent, heaping scorn on the Americans and raising fears of a possible U.S. attack fit the communist country's overall strategy.

For the outside world, North Korea uses its weapons — and its rhetoric — as a bargaining chip to trade for economic aid, diplomatic recognition and a nonaggression treaty with Washington, analysts say. At home, fears of a U.S. invasion distracts impoverished North Koreans and justifies Kim's "army-first" policy, bolstering his totalitarian rule.

In North Korea, ordinary citizens are constantly reminded that America is the enemy. Village murals depict muscle-bound North Korean Peoples' Army soldiers bayoneting sinister, scrawny American GIs. Ubiquitous banners scream dire warnings of imminent war, boasting North Korea will settle the final score with "American imperialists" over the unresolved 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

The tiger-dog comparison is a particularly favorite trope for North Korean propaganda scribes.

When President Bush labeled North Korea

as an "axis of evil," along with Iran and Iraq, the North called Bush a "puppy knowing no fear of the tiger."

North Korea exhorts people to be vigilant against the Americans and loyal to the leadership, by saying: "As long as there is a rabid dog running in the village is not safe." When American officials criticize it, North Korea dismisses them as an inconsequential mutt. "The dog barks, but the caravan continues."

Another favorite tool of North Korea's propagandists is exalting Kim's brilliance.

According to Pyongyang Radio's Sunday dispatch, monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency, Kim Jong Il demonstrated his "pluck" to the world during the first nuclear crisis in 1993.

At the time, the United States, suspecting North Korea of building plutonium bombs, demanded special nuclear inspections.

Former President Clinton's administration finally struck a deal in 1994 that obligated North Korea to freeze its nuclear activities in return for free oil and other benefits.

## Cancer patient suicide

LONDON — A cancer patient who hanged himself may have received a letter from doctors saying he was clear of the illness, officials said Monday.

Colin Jackson, 43, underwent intense treatment after being diagnosed with testicular cancer last year. He was found hanging from a ledge in his apartment in Gillingham, southeast of London, on July 2.

Doctors sent Jackson a letter telling him the treatment was successful and he was free from the disease. But the local coroner's office said he may not have received the letter because he had recently registered with a different family physician.

"He'd had tests for testicular cancer but because of the change of doctor we don't know if he'd got the all-clear," said a spokeswoman for the Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's Office.

The spokeswoman also said

Jackson had no financial worries. Although Jackson's relationship had recently broken up "that wasn't thought to be the cause."

## Valentine's protest

NEW DELHI, India — Nearly 50 Hindu hardliners burned Valentine's Day cards and posters in the Indian capital on Monday, protesting the international day of love that they say imposes Western values on India's youth.

There was no violence as policemen cordoned off the area and prevented the Shiv Sena activists from marching through the sprawling Delhi University campus.

In the past, Hindu nationalists have ransacked shops selling cards and harassed young lovers seen holding hands in public.

On Monday, the protesters dispersed after chanting slogans.

## Thailand marriages

BANGKOK, Thailand — Hun-

dreds of couples in tsunami-hit areas of Thailand celebrated Valentine's Day on Monday by exchanging wedding vows on mountain cliffs, elephants' backs and under water in ceremonies aimed at wooing back foreign tourists.

Ten couples from the United States, Germany, Britain, Taiwan and Thailand tied the knot while dangling from an 263-foot cliff in Krabi province, a popular tourist destination where hundreds died in the Dec. 26 disaster, said Iritir Kingle, president of the Krabi Tourist Association.

The Valentine's Day — and the unusual wedding ceremonies — are organized and promoted annually by local business, tour operators and Thailand's tourism authority. This year, they decided to focus on the tsunami recovery effort.

Thailand is predominantly Buddhist, but many people observe Valentine's Day as a day for lovemaking.

## Misspelled sign

JERUSALEM — Eager to correct a long-standing mistake in the Hebrew spelling of a street named after legendary New York City mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, Tel Aviv municipal officials consulted the highest authorities before rendering the verdict on a new spelling — only to get it wrong again.

Many foreign names on Israeli street signs are misspelled, reflecting the fundamental incompatibility of Hebrew's 22 letters with the Latin alphabet. Lincoln, for example, usually comes out as "Lincun."

LaGuardia Street, a major thoroughfare in south Tel Aviv, has been known to generations of Israelis as "LaGuardia Street" because the original misspelling.

However, the new signs produced by the commission still got the name wrong — rendering it as "LaGvardia."

From The Associated Press



## IN THE STATES

## Verizon offers to buy MCI for \$6.75 a share

BY BRUCE MEYERSON  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications Inc. is acquiring MCI Corp. for \$6.75 billion, a swift response to the acquisition of AT&T Corp. by SBC Communications Inc. and the third big telephone industry merger in two months.

The agreement announced Monday, scuttling a competing bid for MCI by Qwest Communications International Inc., will result in 7,000 job cuts from the combined Verizon-MCI work force of 250,000 employees.

The purchase price was about a

half billion dollars below what Qwest offered for MCI, which recently changed its name from WorldCom Inc. after emerging from bankruptcy and a huge financial fraud.

Verizon, the dominant local phone company in the Northeast and a top cellular player, likely won MCI's favor because it is larger and in better financial shape than Qwest, the local phone carrier across the more sparsely populated Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest.

Denver-based Qwest had no immediate comment on the deal when contacted on Monday.

"MCI is one of just a few beach-

front properties you'd want to see, so it would be crazy not to keep our eyes out," for a company with assets like this up for sale, Ivan Seidenberg, Verizon's chairman and chief executive, said in a conference call with investors Monday morning.

The deal values MCI's stock at \$6.75 billion, or \$20.75 per share — equal to Friday's closing price on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

But after rising 12 percent in two weeks amid speculation fueled by the SBC-AT&T deal, MCI's shares fell \$1.06, or 5.1 percent, to \$19.69 in Monday's early trading.

Verizon shares rose 59 cents, or

1.6 percent, to \$36.90 on the New York Stock Exchange. Qwest fell 26 cents, or 6.3 percent, to \$3.89.

Under the agreement, Verizon will pay \$4.795 billion worth of its stock and \$488 million in cash for MCI's shares. In addition, MCI shareholders will be paid dividends worth \$1.463 billion.

Verizon also is assuming MCI's debt, expected to total \$4 billion at closing. The companies estimated that merger transition expenses will total up to \$3.5 billion over three years after the deal closes, but that cost-cutting from redundant operations will yield about \$1 billion per year in savings starting in the third year.

The deal is subject to MCI shareholder approval and requires regulatory approval, which the companies hope to get in about a year.

The deal comes some two weeks after a \$16 billion deal reached between AT&T and SBC, a top rival for both Verizon and Qwest.

"For Verizon, this deal represents a 'Why not?' strategy. With significant financial security, Verizon can easily pull this deal off," said Ben Silverman, telecom analyst for investment newsletter FindProfit.com. "The deal cements Qwest's place as an 'also-ran' and 'has been' in the telecom arena."

## N.Y. man opens fire at mall, injures two

BY MICHAEL HILL  
The Associated Press

KINGSTON, N.Y. — A man who opened fire in a crowded shopping mall with an assault weapon, wounding two, seemed to have a "lucid fascination" with the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, a prosecutor said Monday.

Robert Bonelli, 24, is accused of wounding two people and sending shoppers scrambling for safety Sunday after shooting his way into the Hudson Valley Mall, just outside Kingston — some 95 miles north of New York City — then giving up when he ran out of ammunition.

Police searching the suspect's room in the nearby town of Saugerties that night found a cache of "Columbine memorabilia," Ulster County District Attorney Donald Williams told The Associated Press.

The prosecutor would not detail what sort of items were



Police officers walk from one of the entrances to the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston, N.Y., after a shooting incident last Monday. Police said a lone gunman opened fire, wounding two before being subdued.

found, but said it included media accounts and other information about the Colorado shooting spree by two students that left 15 dead on April 20, 1999.

"We may never know specifically what his intentions were, or what his motivations were," Williams said.

"However, we are deeply disturbed and troubled by the recovery of Columbine memorabilia from his property."

"Information is being gathered

that would demonstrate that the defendant had a lurid fascination with the April 1999 shooting," he said.

Bonelli was being held without bail in the county jail after being arraigned overnight on first- and second-degree assault and reckless endangerment charges. If convicted, Bonelli could face 25 years in prison for the most serious charge, first-degree assault.

According to police, Bonelli opened fire walking into the Best

Buy store in the mall. After firing several shots, he made his way into the mall corridor and continued shooting until running out of ammunition near the center court, witnesses said.

The wounded included a National Guard recruiter who was in a booth inside the mall when he was shot. State police Capt. Wayne Olson said the 20-year-old man might lose his leg. The second victim, a 35-year-old man, had superficial gunshot wounds to his left arm, thigh and leg.

## Bush to submit supplemental budget request

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush was poised to officially ask Congress Monday for an estimated \$82 billion to cover the costs of continuing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and a myriad of other internationally related expenses, including training Iraqi security forces and aiding victims of the tsunami.

The White House was to send the supplemental budget request to Capitol Hill late Monday, White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters.

Included in the request is \$74.9 billion for the Defense Department, including \$5 billion for transferring Army divisions and

brigades and \$5.7 billion for training and equipping Iraqi military and police, according to a federal official familiar with the supplemental.

The remaining money in the supplemental request includes \$950 million to help areas affected by the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean; \$530 million to aid the Palestinians; \$400 million to reward nations that have taken political and economic risks to join U.S.-led coalitions in Iraq and Afghanistan; money to help build a U.S. embassy in Baghdad; reconstruction funds for Afghanistan; and money for the Darfur region of western Sudan where a 2-year-old civil conflict has left

tens of thousands of people killed and more than 2 million displaced.

In a written statement on this issue earlier, President Bush said the special appropriation would support U.S. troops and help the United States "stand with the Iraqi people and against the terrorists trying desperately to block democracy and the advance of human rights."

The Army wants to use the \$5 billion to convert 33 brigades and regiments into a force of 43 to 48 brigades that would operate more independently.

Last Monday, Bush submitted an overall \$2.5 trillion budget.

## Teacher, pupil to marry

SEATTLE — Mary Kay Letourneau plans to marry the former sixth-grade pupil with whom she had two children, months after her release from prison for raping him, according to an online bridal registry.

Letourneau, 43, and Vili Fualaau, 22, set a wedding date of April 16, according to their registry at a department store.

Letourneau served 7½ years on a 1997 conviction for raping Fualaau, who has said in the past that he hoped to wed his former teacher.

"It's been long overdue," Noel Soriano, a friend of the couple, told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in a story published Monday. "It's going to be fabulous, seeing them get hitched finally."

## Suicide chatter found

PORTLAND, Oregon — A man who used an Internet chat room to try to set up a mass suicide on Valentine's Day had been trying to persuade women for at least five years to engage in sex acts with him and then kill themselves, a sheriff said.

Gerald Krein is charged with solicitation to commit murder, and prosecutors are expected to add an attempted manslaughter charge Monday, said Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evinger.

Combing through old chat room records, investigators discovered that Krein had been trying to entice women across North America to commit suicide as far back as 2000, Evinger said. Krein told investigators he had been in touch with 31 women, authorities said.

## Self-defense stabbing

FORT MITCHELL, Kentucky — A woman stabbed to death while trying to abort a pregnant woman's fetus had been carrying an ultrasound picture of someone else's twins and was wearing maternity clothing filled with padding.

Police said 26-year-old Sarah Brady, who was nine months pregnant, acted in self-defense Thursday when she killed Katherine Smith.

No charges had been filed as of Sunday.

From The Associated Press

**FLY HOME**  
Jan - Mar Specials  
Atlanta.....\$ 339  
New York.....\$ 299  
New Orleans.....\$ 339  
Phoenix.....\$ 339  
Los Angeles.....\$ 465  
San Francisco.....\$ 439  
Detroit.....\$ 339  
\*All hotel and taxes are rounding for travel Jan-Mar 05.  
**Vacations by Air**  
Egypt 1 week EU 1050  
Russia 1 week \$ 1390  
\*Includes 4 nights in 5-star hotels, full week sightseeing incl.  
**CRUISES EU 699 up**  
3 NIGHTS  
**Istanbul \$339up**  
**TOP TOURISTIK**  
Call tollfree 0800FLYHOME  
E-mail: top touristik@t-online.de  
web: www.top touristik.de



Artistic Usher, winner of three Grammys on Sunday, performs.



Alicia Keys holds her awards for best R&B album, best R&B song, best R&B female vocal performance and best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals.

## West still upset

Kanye West has a beef with Dick Clark. West had complained bitterly about his defeat to country singer Gretchen Wilson at the Clark-produced American Music Awards. Backstage Sunday, the Chicago rapper was still ticked off.

"I do not apologize to Dick Clark or the AMAs because you should not have had me perform and have me nominated for so many awards but not have an award," he said.

## 'Bittersweet' tribute

A bald Melissa Etheridge and teen soul star Joss Stone electrified the audience with a gritty tribute to Janis Joplin.

A barefoot Stone sang "Cry Baby," then teamed with Etheridge's vocals and driving guitar on "Piece of My Heart."

Kris Kristofferson, who wrote the Joplin classic "Me and Bobby McGee," introduced the duo. Joplin died of a drug overdose at age 27 in 1970.

"It's bittersweet," he said. "She was so passionate about what she did."

## White hot on Lynn

What do a 69-year-old country legend and a 29-year-old rocker have in common? A Grammy.

Loretta Lynn and White Stripes frontman Jack White teamed to sing "Portland, Oregon," which won for country collaboration with vocals.

Asked backstage about their "not new romance," White deadpanned, "What do you mean new?"

From The Associated Press

## At the Grammys ...



Bonnie Raitt and Billy Preston perform "Do I Ever Cross Your Mind" in tribute to Ray Charles, who died in June, at the 47th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

## Charles' final album, 'Genius Loves Company,' wins eight

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Ray Charles had a legendary career that defied categorization and influenced generations of artists—but he never had one of those blockbuster albums that many lesser artists have enjoyed.

Eight months after his death, all is right with the world.

Charles' final album, "Genius Loves Company," won a leading eight Grammy awards on Sunday night, including album of the year, record of the year for "Here We Go Again" with Norah Jones, and pop vocal album.

The victories highlighted the astounding success of "Genius Loves Company," which has sold more than two million copies—the most of Charles' 60-plus albums.

U2 won three awards, including best rock performance by a duo or group. Green Day, the most nominated rock act with six for their politically charged punk opera "American Idiot," won best rock album.

"Rock 'n' roll can be dangerous and fun at the same time, so thanks a lot," Green Day lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong said as he accepted the award.

Alicia Keys and Usher shared an award Sunday night for best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals for their chart-topping duet "My Boo." Each was nominated for eight Grammys; Keys won four while Usher had three.

The most nominated artist of the year was perhaps the most multifaceted—Kanye West, the songwriter-producer who made his rap debut in 2004 with the cutting-edge CD "The College Dropout." He was nominated for 10 Grammys, including album of the year, but only took home three, including best rap album and best rap song for "Jesus Walks."

He was upset in the best new artist category, losing to Maroon 5 in a race that also included country singer Gretchen Wilson, Los Lonely Boys and soul sirens Joss Stone.

Maroon 5's Adam Levine seemed almost apologetic.



The members of Maroon 5 pose with their awards for best new artist.

"Kanye West, I want to thank you so much for being wonderful," he said. The camera cut away to West, who looked less than pleased.

The oft-maligned Britney Spears also won her first Grammy—best dance recording for "Toxic."

Spears wasn't present, but another newlywed was on hand. Jennifer Lopez performed a duet in Spanish with new hubby Marc Anthony, their first public performance together.

Other performers included Green Day, whose rollicking act was bleeped by the censors; and U2. Even the "Godfather of Soul" James Brown joined Usher for a funky number showcasing their dancing prowess.

Perhaps the evening's most exhilarating performance was from Melissa Etheridge. The rocker, who is battling breast cancer, took to the stage for a Janis Joplin tribute with a shaved head but strong voice, and received a standing ovation.

But ultimately, the night belonged to Ray Charles. Besides the four awards for best album and song, "Genius Loves Company" won for best instrumental arrangement accompanying a vocalist, best gospel performance, best engineered album and best surround sound album.



The late Janis Joplin was honored by Melissa Etheridge, gesturing above, and Joss Stone, not pictured, with their renditions of "Cry Baby" and "Piece of My Heart." Etheridge's hair loss is a result of a battle with cancer.

## The winners

A list of some of the winners announced during the broadcast of Sunday's 47th Annual Grammy Awards:

**Album of the Year:** "Genius Loves Company," Ray Charles and various artists.

**Record of the Year:** "Here We Go Again," Ray Charles and Norah Jones.

**Song of the Year:** "Daughters," John Mayer.

**Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal:** "Vertigo," U2.

**Country Album:** "Van Lear Rose," Loretta Lynn.

**Rap Album:** "The College Dropout," Kanye West.

**R&B Album:** "The Diary of Alicia Keys," Alicia Keys.

**New Artist:** Maroon 5.

**Rock Album:** "American Idiot," Green Day.

**Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal:** "Heaven," Los Lonely Boys.

**Male R&B Vocal Performance:** "Call My Name," Prince.

— The Associated Press



Kanye West poses with his awards. West, nominated for 10 Grammys, took home three for best rap album, best R&B song for "Jesus Walks," song he produced and co-wrote, and best rap song for "Jesus Walks."







## OPINION

## Neither party wants to halt era of big government

Less than a decade ago, President Clinton declared that "the era of big government is over." Clinton didn't mean it, of course. But now we know that the Republicans who cheered Clinton's words of Jan. 27, 1996, didn't really mean to end big government either.

Back then Clinton was describing a proposed federal budget of \$1.64 trillion. (Last week, President Bush proposed a budget that spends \$2.57 trillion. And yet even that enormous sum doesn't include the costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, currently running about \$80 billion a year. Nor does it include any so-called transition costs for a partial privatization of Social Security.)

Meanwhile, reports suggest that the new prescription drug benefit might cost \$1.2 trillion over the coming decade, triple the \$400 billion projected by the White House when the benefit was enacted in 2003. For its part, the administration says that the \$1.2 trillion figure is too high; it estimates the cost of the benefit as "only" \$720 billion. But even if that lower figure proves true, the drug program's cost will have soared 80 percent in less than two years — and that's before it's even begun.

The point is that nobody really knows the true burden of these open-ended entitlement programs. The one safe assumption is that government subsidy programs ratchet upward, not downward.

We might consider, as a cautionary tale, the fate of agriculture spending over the past decade. In 1996, the congressional Republicans, espousing a libertarian line, persuaded Clinton to sign the Freedom From Farm Act, targeting payments to farmers.

Then-Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich took credit for "ending the subsidies after 60 years."

It was a great idea; if the government is going to shrink, surely money to corporate farms should be shunk first.

But a funny thing happened on the way to small government. In the first year after the farm law passed, Department of Agriculture spending dipped a bit, from \$53.12 billion to \$49.55 billion. But then traditional farm-state bondpolo politics kicked back in. By 2001, at the end of Clinton's presidency, USDA spending had jumped to \$74.8 billion. And at the end of Bush's first term, it jumped even higher, to \$93 billion.

But now, after overseeing a 24 percent increase in agriculture spending over the past four years, Bush pledges to reduce agriculture spending over the next four years. Do we have any reason, looking at the fiscal track record, to believe that will happen?

In fairness to Bush, we must say that the president shares control over spending with Congress. Sen. Thad Cochran of cotton-pickin' Mississippi, the third-ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee — and, more to the point, the chairman of the all-powerful Appropriations Committee — reacted to The Washington Post's story about Bush's proposed Agriculture budget: "Frankly, I don't think anyone in the administration really thought Congress would go along with this."

And of course, the Democrats, as a party, have rarely met a domestic spending program they didn't want to increase. On Fox News, Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said flatly that the ultimate budget, as enacted,



would include domestic spending totals "not anywhere near what the president submitted to us." That is, the Democrats will treat the administration's proposals as a floor, and build high from there.

Bush is likely to be OK with that. He was never part of the anti-government Republicanism of the Gingrich era. In 2000, he campaigned on a platform of "compassionate conservatism"; compassion, of course, being defined as greater gobs of government.

Indeed, Bush has never vetoed a single

bill from Congress.

So now we have what might be called "wartime conservatism." Bush reasons that at a time when he is fighting in two countries, this is a time for national unity — and national unity, like compassion, necessitates more federal largesse for everyone, so that everyone feels included in Uncle Sam's porky hug.

So yes, big government is back, with red-in-the-neck vengeance. Although in truth that era never really ended.

James Plunkert is a (New York) Newsday columnist.

## In Europe, Rice re-employed pre-emptive intelligence

BY JOHN HALL

Media General

HER first trip abroad as secretary of state seems to have been a triumph for Condoleezza Rice, despite a couple of jarring moments for those who fear a wider American war in the Islamic world.

Rice, at 50, moved gracefully among mostly senior, mostly stouter and mostly male European leaders. They seemed charmed by her and they were able to aside some of their past differences over the Iraq war, at least for now.

Rice didn't seem to mind a headline calling her "coquettish."

"I will do what I do," she told NBC News. "I'm a package. I'm who I am, and that includes being female."

If the package also includes a steel-magnolia mind, that is to the good. But some of her critics are wondering whether a new secretary of state on a ferry-mending expedition should have been a little less tough.

Her predecessor, Colin Powell, had a way of calming down the continent even at the height of the storm over the Iraq invasion and the French-German refusal to back a United Nations resolution of support.

But Rice, on her first trip, seemed determined to stir up another hornet's nest. Get tougher on Iran, she warned the French, British and Germans, who are conducting slow-moving negotiations to prevent Iran's nuclear program from becoming a weapons program.

While getting no deadline, she said the talks could not go on forever and she warned that the United States would soon apply to the United Nations for sanctions on Iran. In the background, Vice President Dick Cheney has been giving interviews and

speeches warning that a nuclear-armed Iran would be intolerable.

Rice said attacking Iran was "not on the agenda at this point." The use of the words "at this point" implies that at some point it will be in order, and Rice, a Stanford scholar, is a woman who chooses words carefully.

That brought a swift rebuke from David Kay, an arms inspector who headed the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Writing in The Washington Post (the column appeared in Stars and Stripes' Feb. 9 edition), he saw an "eerie similarity" to the buildup toward trouble in Iran and the events that preceded the Iraq war.

In addition to Cheney's and Rice's remarks, a stream of reports from Iranian exiles has begun to appear about Iran's attempt to acquire nuclear weapons. And there are reports of U.S. covert surveillance activities in Iran.

It was Kay who told the Senate Armed Ser-

vices Committee that "we were almost all wrong" in concluding before the Iraq war that Iraq likely had weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

This time, the mistake should be avoided. A "cooked document to justify the threat of military action" should not be accepted from the intelligence community, he said. Any assessment of Iran's nuclear weapons capabilities should not be led "by a team that is trying to prove a case for its boss."

These were powerful words from one of the nation's foremost scientists on weapons of mass destruction. Not long ago, President Bush and Rice, as his national security adviser, thought enough of Kay to put him in charge of the effort to find the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq after the fall of Baghdad.

The administration selected Kay because he was a hard-nosed arms control inspector who had been critical of U.N. inspectors for

not looking closely enough. But Kay and his survey group could find nothing because there was nothing. And when he told Congress that there had been a major intelligence failure before the invasion, it was a bitter moment of truth for the nation.

Kay says he is now hearing déjà vu sounds on Iran. What he doubts is not the danger of Iran having nuclear weapons, but "the ability of the U.S. government to honestly assess Iran's nuclear status." That is because the policy-makers appear still to be driving the intelligence.

A top-level independent commission is due to issue its report on the Iraqi intelligence failure soon. Whether or not mixing policy with intelligence will be part of its assessment of what went wrong isn't known. But Rice's statement on Iran sounds at this point like pre-emptive intelligence remains the practice.

John Hall is the senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Autograph gouging

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Professional athletes who try to pad their million-dollar paychecks with paid autograph signings wouldn't be welcome in Rhode Island under legislation introduced.

Sen. Roger Badeau said he is fed up with athletes at large-scale autograph signing events charging up to \$100 for an autograph. What really irks him is that children have to pay for the signatures of their sports heroes.

"They get paid millions and millions. Where do we stop with this? It doesn't make sense," Badeau said. "It's not even realistic anymore."

Badeau's bill would ban professional athletes, entertainers or promoters from charging a fee for an autograph to a child younger than 16. They would be fined \$100 for each violation.

## Officer arrested

**TX** FORT WORTH — A Fort Worth police officer has been arrested after a 15-year-old girl accused him of fondling her in his patrol car in November.

Officer J.D. Carter, 40, a nine-year veteran, was arrested and bonded on suspension of his license with a child/sexual contact. Carter, who was released after posting \$15,000 bail, has been placed on detached duty and is not allowed to carry a badge or a gun.

Carter's attorney, Bill Lane, called the allegations untrue.

"It's a sad day," Lane said. "We've cooperated fully with the police department. It's strictly his case," she said.

## Mr. Peanut honored

**VA** SUFFOLK — The home of the top-hat-wearing Mr. Peanut will honor the dapper goober with vehicle registration decals.

The cane-carrying symbol of the region's signature crop will be displayed on Suffolk's 2005 registration decals, which must be affixed to windshields.

It's the first time in Mr. Peanut's nearly 90-year history that Suffolk has used it on anything officially representing the city.

"He is recognized on Madison Avenue," said City Treasurer Ron Williams, who unveiled the decal to the City Council late last year. "He is respected on Wall Street. But he resides on Main Street in Suffolk. I can think of no better image to look out from the windshield of the vehicles in the city."

## Bay Bridge repairs

**MD** ANNAPOLIS — Without saying who is to blame, a report released by an independent panel concluded that a combination of rushed work and inadequate planning was the cause of bungled repairs on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

At least \$7 million worth of re-paving work must be redone, and State Transportation Secretary Bob Plagman said the project won't be finished by spring 2006, as originally planned.

Work began on about two miles of the bridge in 2002 and was esti-

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

mated to cost \$70 million.

The crux of the problem, the panel found, is that the long, thin westbound span of the bridge presented a more complex repair job than state officials, engineers and contractors planned.

## Reimbursed flights

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — The director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has pledged to repay the state \$2,000 for using state-owned aircraft to commute from his home and fly to charity-hunting trips in South Dakota.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich ordered Joel Brunsold to make the reimbursement after an Associated Press report showed Brunsold used planes and helicopters to fly to and from his home at least nine times and used state aircraft for special trips more than most government executives.

Brunsold, 62, planned to alter his practices to suit the governor, but he defended the use of the aircraft, saying he sometimes has to get to remote locations quickly to conduct agency business.

## Religious suit dropped

**HI** HONOLULU — A federal judge has dismissed the U.S. Justice Department's religious dis-



## 25th anniversary

Students re-create the parade of athletes in Lake Placid, N.Y., as the village starts its celebration of the 25th anniversary of the 1980 Winter Olympics, which was held in the village.

crimination lawsuit against Maui County. U.S. District Judge Samuel King dismissed the lawsuit at the request of the Justice Department. The case was dropped because the underlying state lawsuit of a Maui church against the county has been settled.

King dismissed the federal lawsuit with prejudice, meaning it can't be filed again. He also ordered each side to pay its own legal costs.

County attorneys had wanted King to order the government to explain the basis of the lawsuit, which grew out of a land-use dispute and litigation involving Hale O Kaula church, which was denied a permit to build a worship center on agricultural land in Pukalani in 2001.

## Helping meter readers

**WV** CHARLESTON — Appalachian Power is replacing 50,000 electric meters on Kanawha Valley homes with equipment that sends radio signals and allows readers to check meters without getting out of their car.

"It helps us be more efficient and accurate," spokeswoman Jeri Matheny said. "They're good for residential areas where you can drive down a block and read a number of meters at once."

They also improve safety, Matheny said.

"Our meter readers deal with dangerous dogs. They're just like the Postal Service when it comes to that," she said.

Instead of spinning dials, the new meters have digital readouts and are lighter than the electromechanical meters they replace.

## Strong storm strikes

**AZ** PHOENIX — A strong storm lashed parts of Arizona with heavy rain, forcing authorities to close portions of four highways because of rock slides and flooding and driving dozens of people from threatened homes.

Some 40 residents of two mobile home parks in Puntkin Center, about 80 miles northeast of Phoenix, were evacuated because of rising water from Tonto Creek. People living east of the creek were stranded by flooding at low water crossings.

Some precautionary evacuations were ordered in at least three other communities for residents living near rivers.

Authorities blocked portions of four state highways near Globe because of rock slides and flooding. It is not clear when the roads would reopen.

## Prison murder plot

**CA** CRESCENT CITY — The prison that houses some of California's most violent inmates will remain on lockdown for several weeks as authorities investigate what they call a "very sophisticated" plot to kill three guards.

Pelican Bay State Prison has been under a state of emergency since Feb. 4, when inmates alerted prison officials to the plot, spokesman Lt. Steven Perez said. He said investigators believe the plot was orchestrated by members of the Mexican Mafia, a well-organized prison gang.



## Honoring those lost

Washington, D.C., firefighters Greg Thompson, left, and Donald Lee sign a commemorative 343 FDNY fire helmet in tribute to the 343 firefighters lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks during the National Lincoln Birthday Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.



## Win some, lose some

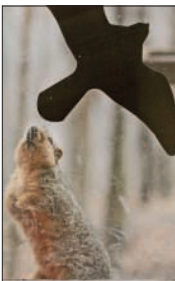
Allen Lassetter of Elm Mott, Texas, slides off his horse as the steer he was chasing abruptly turned. Lassetter was a participant in the steer wrestling competition during the San Antonio Rodeo.



**Highway inferno** A fuel tanker truck burns in Davie, Fla. The 18-wheel tanker truck was driving onto a ramp from Interstate 595 to Florida's Turnpike when the driver lost control and the truck overturned, Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Pat Santangelo said. The truck, carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel, toppled onto a passenger vehicle, pinning it against a guardrail before bursting into flames.



**Live and in concert** Legendary trumpet player Maynard Ferguson performs in concert, along with his band, The Big Bop Nouveau Band, in Easton, Pa.



**Observant squirrel** A fox squirrel eyeballs a bird decal at the Everett H. Krueger Nature Center observation window at Highbanks Metro Park north of Columbus, Ohio.



**Showing support** From left, Mason Smith, Blanch Smith, Dorothy Burnette and Everette Burnette show their support for Company B of the 391st Engineer Battalion, a York, S.C.-based U.S. Army Reserve company, which left for Afghanistan via Fort Bragg, N.C.

## Wrong inmate freed

**PA** SCRANTON — Lackawanna County Prison officials botched a prisoner transfer and accidentally released the wrong inmate to a rehabilitation facility, where he walked away.

The whereabouts of Brian McDonald, 22, of the Bronx, N.Y., were unknown. Prison Warden Paul L. Jennings said. McDonald had been at Lackawanna County Prison since Jan. 4 on a parole violation, the warden said.

Dennis McDonald, 50, of Scranton, was the inmate who was supposed to be transferred to Keenan House, an Allentown rehabilitation facility, Jennings said. He had been in the prison after allegedly violating his parole.

Keenan House staff arrived at the prison with an order from the state Board of Probation and Parole to pick up Dennis McDonald, originally convicted on a drug charge, officials said.

Instead, the prison handed over Brian McDonald. "We gave them the wrong person — it (the mistake) was on our end," Jennings said.

Keenan House is a residential facility that allows patients to leave at their own will, which Brian McDonald did upon his arrival, Jennings said.

## Sex offender arrested

**CA** CUPERTINO — A flurry of complaints about a woman in tight red shorts and a sports bra trespassing on middle-school campuses has led to the arrest of a registered sex offender who happens to be male.

Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies said Jeffery Stuart Poe, 43, had been arrested at his Sunnyvale home after witnesses who confronted a suspect at Kennedy Middle School in Cupertino chased him to his car and jotted down the license-plate number.

Police said the incidents began when a man disguised as a woman would sidle up to groups of students at several South Bay schools.

## Plan for basin

**WY** CASPER — The Bureau of Land Management was set to present its draft management plan for the 4.5 million-acre Great Divide Basin. The plan would guide management and resource development of the area for the next 20 years. The plan would allow more than 8,800 oil and gas wells to be drilled in the area, generating billions of dollars in mineral revenue.

## Federal mediation

**MO** ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra's musicians and management agreed to federal mediation in a labor dispute that's forced 13 concert cancellations. Union members on Jan. 3 resoundingly rejected a four-year contract offer that required them to take a pay cut. The symphony is ranked among the nation's best, with six Grammy awards and 56 nominations.

## Too many false alarms

**CA** FREMONT — With his city's police force poised to become the first in California to stop responding to most burglar alarms, insurance salesman Den-

niss Wolfe is urging fellow citizens to arm themselves.

"I absolutely believe everybody should own a gun in Fremont now," Wolfe said. "If the police aren't going to protect us, we have to protect ourselves."

Wolfe, 52, said he has been deluged with support since he began distributing letters and fliers urging residents to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons, suggesting how to shoot an intruder and have it ruled self-defense, and calling for a recall of Mayor Bob Wasserman if he doesn't rescind the policy, which takes effect Feb. 18.

Police Chief Craig Steckler announced the policy last month, saying more than 98 percent of Fremont's 7,000 annual alarm calls turn out to be false alarms. That costs \$600,000 in staffing, tying up police officers who could be dealing with other crimes, he said.

Under the new plan, officers will be verified by a witness or surveillance system. Police spokesman Detective Bill Vetteran called Wolfe's suggestion "absolutely ridiculous."

## Pricey freight

**AZ** PHOENIX — Union Pacific Corp. is raising rates as much as 100 percent for some items being shipped into and out of Arizona.

The move could result in higher prices for industrial goods and construction materials. Shippers in Phoenix, which has one of the railroad's most congested freight yards, will face some of the stiffest hikes.

## Survives plunge in ice

**VT** RUTLAND — A Rutland man survived his first ice fishing trip when his plan plunged through the ice on Lake Champlain.

Joel Maranville's vehicle crashed through the ice about 10 yards from shore near Port Henry, N.Y.

Maranville, 46, was able to free himself from the van as it tumbled to the bottom of the lake. He spent several minutes clinging to loose pieces of ice until someone heard his cries for help and called rescuers, who were able to pull him out to safety using a rope. Maranville was treated for hypothermia.

## A real shocker

**VA** RICHMOND — Chief Warrent Officer Edwin Murphy was too busy helping tsunami victims to check his \$100,000 winning lottery ticket, Virginia Lottery officials said.

Finally, nearly two weeks after the Jan. 15 drawing, Murphy checked his ticket and had won the top prize in the Cash 5 game.

"I was really pretty shocked," he told lottery officials when he claimed his prize. "I wasn't sure because I never win anything."

The lucky soldier purchased his winning ticket at a 7-Eleven in Woodbridge. The winning numbers were 4-9-14-18-32. Murphy had little time to think about lottery tickets, traveling to coordinate the movement of water, food and other materials for victims of the South Asia disaster. He is assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, and plans to retire in June after 30 years in the Army.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.domecia.mil/>

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-VIDEO)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley "Penguin Party" Sages-Samek Cat	Movie *** "Awake to Danger" (1996, Suspense) Neil Spelling, Michael Hayes	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Sweet Dreams Best for Less ESPNews	Jeopardy! Headline News ESPNews
9:30 Arthur "Background Blues"		(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Army Newsweek			
10:00 Reading Rainbow (E)	(45) Movie *** "Les Miserables" (1998, Drama) Liam Neeson, Gough, Ralph L. French fugitive is pursued by a obsessed police officer.	(35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Harbald With Chris Matthews			
11:00 Sages-Samek Cat		(17) General Hospital	Genius: A Night for Ray Charles	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Movie *** "Keep the Faith, Baby" (2000) Harry Lennix, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. condemns discrimination.
11:30 Stanley		Headline News	Movie *** "Keep the Faith, Baby" (2000) Harry Lennix, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. condemns discrimination.	Fox and Friends First	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	That '70s Show Girlfriends Charmed "Power Outage"	Movie *** "Keep the Faith, Baby" (2000) Harry Lennix, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. condemns discrimination.
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Judge Judy		Fox and Friends		Strong Medicine "Performance Anxiety"	Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
12:30 The Wiggles	Movie *** "Romance & Juliet" (1996) Leonardo DiCaprio, two youths from rival families share a doomed love affair.	Today	Pacific Report			Any Day Now "Family Is Family"	Let's Show With David Letterman
13:00 Bob the Builder		Headline News	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Third Watch "Run of the Mill"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		ESPNews	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	The Simpsons Star Trek: Enterprise "Doctor's Orders"	Law & Order "Dissonance"
14:00 Blue's Clues	(15) Movie *** "Double Team" (1997, Adventure) Jean Claude Van Damme, Dennis Rodman, Mickey Rourke	AFN Evening News	Headline News	DaySide With Linda Vester		Access Hollywood	Dennis Miller
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Entertainment Tonight	Headline News		NBA Fastbreak	Crime Scene Investigation	
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	World Sport	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Headline News
16:00 Pokemon "Yrs & Ice"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Dissonance"	Headline News
16:30 Dr. Phil		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	The Simpsons Star Trek: Enterprise "Doctor's Orders"	Headline News
17:00 Doug (E)		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
18:00 The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
19:00 The Proud Family		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
19:30 The Amanda Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
20:00 Everwood "The Last of Summer"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
21:00 Sister, Sister "Valentine"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
21:30 Sister, Sister		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
22:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
22:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
23:00 Touched by an Angel		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	College Basketball Air Force at New Mexico.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News
23:30		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Pro Bowl Skills Competition From Honolulu.	Crime Scene Investigation	Headline News

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-VIDEO)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
00:00 Aah! Real Monsters	(34) Movie *** "The Gnome of Navarone" (1961, Adventure) Gregory Peck, David Wayne, Anthony Cum. Allied soldiers are assigned to destroy Nazi weapons.	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power "Star dog"		Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Star Trek: Enterprise "Doctor's Orders"	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00 The Fairly OddParents		College Basketball Connecticut at Providence. (Live)	Blue's Clues "Inventions"	NBC Nightly News	College Basketball Indiana at Ohio State. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise "Doctor's Orders"	Blue's Clues "Inventions"
1:30 Rugrats			Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News		Crime Scene Investigation	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 The Proud Family			Dr. Phil	The Newsmist With Jim Lehrer		Crime Scene Investigation	Dr. Phil
2:30 The Amanda Show						Crime Scene Investigation	
3:00 Everwood "The Last of Summer"						Crime Scene Investigation	
3:30 Sister, Sister						Crime Scene Investigation	
4:00 Sister, Sister "Valentine"						Crime Scene Investigation	
4:30 Sister, Sister						Crime Scene Investigation	
5:00 Sesame Street (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
6:00 Reading Rainbow (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
6:30 Dragon Tales (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
7:00 Bob the Builder						Crime Scene Investigation	
8:00 The Wiggles						Crime Scene Investigation	
8:30 Dora the Explorer						Crime Scene Investigation	
9:00 Stanley						Crime Scene Investigation	
9:30 Sages-Samek Cat						Crime Scene Investigation	
10:00 Arthur (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
11:00 Sages-Samek Cat						Crime Scene Investigation	
11:30 Stanley						Crime Scene Investigation	
12:00 Dora the Explorer						Crime Scene Investigation	
12:30 The Wiggles						Crime Scene Investigation	
13:00 Bob the Builder						Crime Scene Investigation	
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
14:00 Blue's Clues "Blue's ABCs"						Crime Scene Investigation	
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
15:00 Funniest Home Videos						Crime Scene Investigation	
15:30 Full House						Crime Scene Investigation	
16:00 Pokemon						Crime Scene Investigation	
16:30 Dr. Phil						Crime Scene Investigation	
17:00 Doug (E)						Crime Scene Investigation	
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys						Crime Scene Investigation	
18:00 The Fairly OddParents						Crime Scene Investigation	
18:30 Rugrats						Crime Scene Investigation	
19:00 Even Stevens "Gourmet meal"						Crime Scene Investigation	
19:30 Kenan & Kel "Turkey Day"						Crime Scene Investigation	
20:00 Gilmore Girls "A-Tisket, A-Tasket"						Crime Scene Investigation	
21:00 Degassi: Next						Crime Scene Investigation	
21:30 Degassi: Next						Crime Scene Investigation	
22:00 The Cosby Show						Crime Scene Investigation	
22:30 Home Improvement						Crime Scene Investigation	
23:00 Touched by an Angel "The Letter"						Crime Scene Investigation	
23:30						Crime Scene Investigation	

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STARS AND STRIPES  
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## FACES

## Actors skate circles around each other

Woody Harrelson is taking ice skating lessons and Charlize Theron is doing her best to stay warm as they begin a new film.

"It's really beautiful but I am from Africa, which is a very hot continent," Theron said of Minnesota. She said she enjoyed watching a recent snowfall "from the inside of a house."

In the film, Theron plays a female miner who pursues a precedent-setting sexual harassment case. Harrelson is her hockey-playing lawyer, and he's taking skating lessons from a local high school coach.

"Currently, I suck," Harrelson said.

The film, which is still untitled, is directed by Niki Caro, who also directed the critically acclaimed "Whale Rider."



Theron

## Russell Simmons joins KFC critics

Hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons has joined other celebrities and activists who have criticized KFC, saying he will call for a boycott if the company doesn't reform its slaughter practices.

Simmons called slaughter practices used by the fast-food chain's suppliers "grossly inhumane" and has filmed a commercial "showing some of the very worst abuses chickens undergo" before they are served to customers, the New York Daily News reported Sunday.

Simmons, who is chairman of Def Jam Records and is a vegan, said he has talked to officials of Yum! Brands, the parent company of KFC, and said he will release the ad and start a boycott if the company does not reform its practices.

Other celebrities and activists who have raised their voices against KFC include the Rev. Al Sharpton, comedian and social activist Dick Gregory, actress Pamela Anderson and musician Paul McCartney.

Yum! Brands vice president Jonathan Blum disputed Simmons' claim.

## 'Crossfire' cancellation stirs shouting

A panel discussion on whether cable debate shows like CNN's recently canceled "Crossfire" have screamed themselves out of business ended in — what else — a shouting match.

Panelists including comedian Janeane Garofalo, conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham and former White House press secretary Joe Lockhart were alternately cheered and jeered at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, Colo.

Garofalo ranted some audience members with her comment that not only does "the Republican message dominate the public conversation, but that in my opinion, 90 percent of it is false."

Ingraham retorted, "The American left is so unwilling to look inward to see what's wrong with their party."

The format may be part of the problem, said panel moderator Joe Scarborough, host of MSNBC's "Scarborough Country."

"If we had 1½ hours to debate Iraq, we'd have had a more nuanced discussion. How do you debate Iraq in three-and-one-half minutes?" he said.

## The chase is on for Depardieu

French movie icon Catherine Deneuve was glad to see co-star Gerard Depardieu playing a man on an obsessive quest to regain his first love.

"It's true that obsessive love like that is generally something for women," she told reporters at the Berlin International Film Festival.

"It really touched me that Gerard Depardieu is a very sensitive and delicate person in that big shell of his."

The two star in "Les temps qui changent" (Changing Times), directed by Andre Techine. In the film, Depardieu's Antoine hopes to find Cecile, played by Deneuve, in Tangiers, Morocco, and win her back from her Moroccan husband.



Depardieu

Stories and photos from wire services

# Shy child to FEISTY actress

## Graham's 'Gilmore Girls' success took a while to build

BY LUANEE LEE

Scripts Howard News Service

Few might guess that actress Lauren Graham, who plays the feisty Lorelai in "Gilmore Girls," was very shy as a kid.

"I masked it," she says. "I was always perceived to be tougher than I was. I had a sarcastic sense of humor. I remember at summer camp when thinking I was sassy or 'fresh' ... It was really my sense of humor, but people didn't take it the right way — which is funny — because that's exactly the character I play basically."

Being fresh and edgy has earned Graham a place in the annals of television.

While the luminous Graham might seem everyone's dream girl, she was quite the opposite in high school.

"I was awkward ... always self-conscious and didn't feel comfortable ... I was on the drill team one year, was in student government, but never identified myself as ... 'pretty.'"

Sitting across from her, "pretty" is the first thing you think of. But Graham surprises you. A bookish girl, she was reared by her father after her mother left to pursue her own career when Lauren was 5.

"Being raised by my dad was a defining feature of my life for sure because it was very unusual for there to be any single parents at the time, and especially a dad," she says. She started her college career at a conservatory for "artists," but backed out when she realized she needed to learn more academics.

She transferred to Barnard College in New York City, majoring in English, struggling through what she calls her "Ramen" days.

"I went to this really expensive school and looking back I think I should've gone to some Virginia state school," says Graham, 37.

Trying to be an actress in New York proved overwhelming.

"That was really the most baffling thing," she says. "I had at least two jobs trying to pay rent on this tiny, awful apartment ... I just thought this could take forever to get anyone to notice."

She applied for graduate school in Texas on a partial scholarship.

"When we graduated we did a showcase in New York and Chicago and I got an agent from that showcase," she says.

She didn't work as an actress for two years. "I taught test preps for the Princeton Review. That was a really a good job because it paid really well and was fairly flexible. I waitressed and ... did a combination of things."

She started emoting in commercials and the one she did for Cascade dishwashing soap kept her afloat for two years.

In Los Angeles she slept on her aunt's couch and scoured the papers for auditions. Surprisingly she was cast almost immediately in a TV pilot that never aired.

It took six years to rev up her career. When the chance at "Gilmore

Girls" came up, Graham was already committed to a sitcom called "MYOB." Luckily for her, it became a casualty of the ratings and she landed on "Gilmore Girls."

Emerging from a long-term relationship, Graham says she'd like to marry and have a family someday.



Lauren Graham, once a shy girl, breaks out of her shell as Lorelai Gilmore on the "Gilmore Girls."

Courtesy of The WB



## Quick Trips



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A doll house kitchen on display at the Hessisches Puppenmuseum in Hanau, Germany, dates to 1910, with accessories from 1890 to 1950.

# Doll house

## German museum traces history of playthings

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

Barbie may be the world's best-known doll and a girls' favorite for more than 40 years, but dolls have been around much longer. Much, much longer.

At the Hessisches Puppenmuseum (Hessian Doll Museum) in the Hanau, Germany, suburb of Wilhelmshad, Barbie is a younger compared with most of the dolls on display.

The oldest of the collection — housed in about a dozen rooms on the second floor of the historical arcade building of the Wilhelmshad spa — date back nearly 5,000 years. Most of these were cult and burial figurines. Not quite so old are the Greek and Roman dolls.

Not only dolls are on display, but also toys, such as rattles, whistles and wheeled animals. Most are made of clay, but some are made from bone or ivory.

In some ancient cultures, the girls' toys were sacrificed when they reached maturity or were married, so many of the objects on display were found in children's graves or in temples to female deities.

The collection jumps ahead quite a few centuries to the 1700s and, from then on, there is a pretty straight line of doll history up to modern times. The displays are divided into sections: dolls up to 1850, 1850-1880, 1880-1920, 1920-45 and dolls after 1945. Here is where you will find Barbie and her friend Ken, decked out in 1970s fashion.



A teddy bear sits at an old-fashioned school desk at the doll museum in Hanau. Should the kids get bored with the dolls at the museum, there are toys, like the bear, to entertain them.



This Egyptian doll dates to between the third and seventh century B.C.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

The dolls are made of, among other things, porcelain, paper, wood, papier-mâché, tin and plastic.

Some are quite interesting. The *Badekind* or bathing children, for example, were porcelain dolls manufactured from the mid-19th century until 1914. They were water- and soap-proof, and kids could give them baths. Another doll, named Lissi, wears a tin sign around her neck. Ute, the doll's owner, was a girl from Frankfurt, Germany, who wore a sign with her name and address stamped on it when she and her family went to air-raid shelters during

World War II, and insisted her doll Lissi have a sign, too.

There are doll houses, large and small, on display. Some are quite simple, while others are extravagant, with fully equipped kitchens. One is a miniature department store, with sales clerks and customers, supposedly the largest of its kind in the world.

While most of the dolls are German, there is a room with a collection of international dolls with dolls from Japan, China, the Netherlands and the United States. There are also African, South American and American Indian dolls.

One room has a model of life in the Japanese city of Totomi in southern Japan, made up of 493 paper dolls. Another has a model of the three-ring Krone circus that includes the ringmaster, animals, performers, spectators and the trucks the circus travels in.

While the museum is interesting to young and old alike, looking at dolls behind glass can get boring for the wee ones. For them, the museum has toys, dolls and stuffed animals to play with spread throughout the museum.

The exhibits are labeled in German only. It would be a good idea for visitors to print out the descriptions of the museum's various rooms from its English-language Web site before they go.

E-mail Michael Abrams at: [abramsmc@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:abramsmc@mail.stripes.osd.mil).



A Japanese doll from 1840 is dressed in a traditional Kabuki costume.

## On the QT



### Directions

The museum is at Parkpromenade 4, in Hanau-Wilhelmshad, Germany. Exit Autobahn 66 at Hanau-Nord and head toward Hanau center. Take the first right and follow the road to the second traffic light, turn right, then right again and the road will lead to the parking lot. It is well marked with signs pointing to the "Puppenmuseum."



### Times

10 a.m.-noon and 2-5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday. Closed on Mondays.



### Costs

Adults 2.50 euros; students and youth 1.50 to 17 years old 1.50 euros; children up to 14 50 euro.



### Food

There is a cafe next door to the museum that was closed for repairs during our visit but is due to reopen soon. There is a bistro at the golf course nearby.



### Information

Go to [www.dollmuseum.de](http://www.dollmuseum.de) for the museum's English-language Web site.

— MICHAEL ABRAMS



# Horoscope

The Taurus moon is a hungry moon filled with longing and desire. But Mars and Uranus conspire to highlight our social conscience during the season of Lent. It's not so much about what we're giving up as about what could drop into the void of that loss. New reserves of energy open up, and something more positive can be planted into the space.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 15).** You are wealthy in love year.

The investment of quality time and affection that you put into friends and family yields the true gold, so don't bury yourself in work.

Romance thrives when there are challenging shared goals at stake.

Singles are infatuated and then get the prize in June. Some marry in July. Love signs are Scorpio and Aries. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 12, 32 and 14.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** One-armed robots discovered last year that your ruling planet was likely wet enough to harbor life. And you'll discover today that your temper isn't as hot and uncontrollable as you thought — loved ones can actually live with it!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** When you look around you, you can't help but notice there are two types of people — those who have problems and those who somehow, miraculously, don't hang around the second group for good luck.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Computers require periodic system upgrades, and your personal operating system needs an update once in a while, too. Review now. A new "program" will only work if you're willing to change something basic.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Your connection with the moon makes you more sensitive than most — a fact that's so apparent now you'll wonder if you're even the same species as your fellow humans. You'll teach others compassion.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** A plan can be complex without being com-

plicated. If you can't easily explain your intentions, perhaps they are still not clear to even you. Break your plan down to concise action steps. Share discoveries with a Taurus.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Being a part of a supportive community is key to having a terrific life. You already contribute in some way, but how can you build more value into those contributions on a daily basis?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're probably tolerating more than you need to from a loved one. Dare to crack down on the rules of conduct.

Make it clear that there are behaviors you simply won't put up with anymore.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your old manner of dealing with stress isn't working so hot now. Time to change it up. It's a rare day when escapism and avoidance tactics may actually be the healthiest thing you can do.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Something that occurs on the job begins an internal conversation between you and your critic. Boy, that critic can be mean! You wouldn't accept such language from others — and shouldn't accept it from yourself.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your results are directly linked to your energy source. Being on a strict deadline may give you the adrenaline rush to get to the finish line, but how is the end product? Joyful creativity yields a better outcome.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** What you think is a light schedule is quite overwhelming to someone else. Your teammates need special care and specific instructions now if they are to keep up with you. Be patient, or go it alone.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Just as fellow Pisces Albert Einstein's theory of relativity may have a glitch (as revealed by the super-strong gravity of a neutron star), your own theories could change due to the super-strong pull of an influential friend.

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## Holiday Mathis



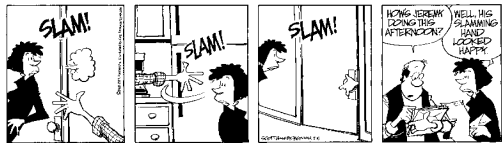
## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse

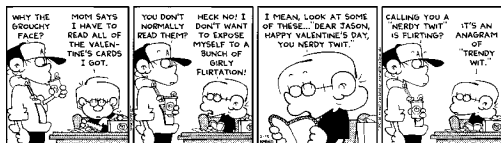


## Peanuts





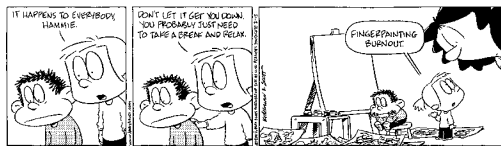
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



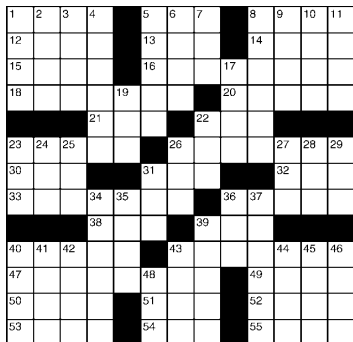
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### Across

- 1 Leftovers recipe
- 5 Bliz dog
- 8 Differently
- 12 Bleacherites' choreography
- 13 Branch
- 14 "Cliff rent Strokes"
- 15 Figure-skating torch
- 16 Con
- 18 Hunter's companion
- 20 Staffers
- 21 Listening device
- 22 Hostel
- 23 Lightheartedly silly
- 26 "Consume it all!"
- 30 Dined
- 31 Enjoyment
- 32 Deterioration
- 33 Turned, as milk
- 36 Chamer's snake
- 39 In favor of
- 40 Plankton, in part
- 43 Fast traveler?
- 47 Bygone moviehouse offering
- 49 From square one
- 50 Dangling locale
- 51 "Of course"
- 52 Singer Turner
- 53 Straight flush, e.g.
- 54 Prior to
- 55 Vortex

### Down

- 1 Mop
- 2 Cab
- 3 Incessantly
- 4 Used an acetylene torch
- 5 Main course of study
- 6 Boast
- 7 Partisan pal
- 8 In recession
- 9 Deposited
- 10 Paddock papa
- 11 Tackles' teammates
- 17 Singer k.d.
- 19 Rotation duration
- 22 Saturn auto model
- 23 Joke
- 24 Judge Lance
- 25 Highway
- 26 Flip
- 27 Scepter topper
- 28 Neither mate
- 29 Greek vowel
- 31 Actress Way
- 34 Obliterated
- 35 Dutch South African
- 36 Massachusetts cape
- 37 Highly decorated
- 39 Perjurious
- 40 Egyptian cross
- 41 Horne or Olin
- 42 Stefani of No Doubt
- 43 "Cheers" supply
- 44 Oklahoma city
- 45 Make one's way
- 46 Vacillate
- 48 Keep tabs on

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 2-15

### CRYPTOQUIP

ECW UNLJ RPMXPBX  
VDBRW JRHNZEDPXXWNJZL  
R UNXJJ EYXL CXVX WP EYX

JDXH CDMXXZXPUEY  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOCTOR WAS A GENIUS AT BANDAGING, HE COULD BE CALLED "THE WIZARD OF GAUZE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S

# Abuse should be stopped quickly

**Dear Abby:** I am 23 and involved with a man who is younger than I am. When we started our relationship, he was awesome and very kind. Now, six months later, he has changed. He is always yelling at me and telling me what to do. When I do what he says, it's still not right, or good enough.

After we were together for one month, we moved back to my home in New Mexico, and that's when the problems started. At first, it was only name-calling. I have tried to break up with him, but he won't let me. He keeps me awake, and won't let me leave the room to go to the bathroom or get a drink of water until I agree to stay with him. He has even laid his hands on me at times.

He throws it in my face that he can't leave because he has nowhere to go since we're so far from his home. Abby, he's the one who wanted to come here. I'm afraid of him.

I'm convinced he will seriously hurt me sooner or later.

—**Scared in New Mexico**

**Dear Scared:** So am I, because his abuse is escalating. Pick up the phone and call the toll-free number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233.

They will help you formulate an escape plan. Please do not wait — do it today.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** A couple of nights ago, my husband, "Irving," and I went out to dinner with "Ray," a friend of his who was visiting from out of town. This morning, I stumbled upon an instant message Irving had left open on his computer between himself and Ray. I couldn't help but see the first sentence my hubby had written. He was commenting on the number of "hot, hot" women at the restaurant.

I know I shouldn't have, but I went on to read the message. I couldn't stop myself. It described

one woman in particular whom he found attractive, a tall blonde two tables over, directly in his line of sight.

Abby, I was floored — shocked! Irving has always told me I'm the most beautiful woman in the world to him, but after reading his comments, I feel I've been lied to all along. I have no doubt that Irving has always been loving and faithful. But I'm upset and angry over this and wonder if I should say something or let it slide. Am I overreacting? Was this just man-talk and men being harmless?

—**Mad Anyhow in California**

**Dear Mad Anyhow:** There's an expression, "Boys will be boys," but in this case it was men acting like boys. Do not get mad — just smile and say, "Irving, you left the window open and the cat is out of the bag." That should be revenge enough.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEDUN  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

DYNOW  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

NOPETT  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

NAYYAW  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer:  THEM  "  "  "

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALIVE SAVOR BLITHE KNIGHT  
Answer: Many will do this on Valentine's Day — TAKE IT TO "HEART"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Mother-in-law disregards allergies

**Dear Annie:** My mother-in-law, "Marley," has me worried. Two years ago, Marley married a doctor and moved west to live with him. Her husband has a 50-ish daughter, "Carrie," who is quite close to her father. Carrie claims to have severe food allergies.

Marley told me that it irritates her when Carrie comes over and eats from their fridge, so she has started chipping up some of these sensitive foods and putting them into soups and such, which Carrie then innocently eats.

Marley hasn't told her husband, because he will tell Carrie. Over the holidays, Marley came to visit us. In one of our conversations, I mentioned that my 12-year-old daughter and I share an allergy to walnuts. Yet, for our holiday dinner, Marley made a dessert with crushed walnuts in the crust and didn't tell us. At first, I ate a bite and noticed my mouth was on fire. I told my daughter not to eat any. I then reminded

**Annie's Mailbox**



Marley that we are allergic, and not 10 minutes later, she held out a piece of this same dessert and told my daughter to "have some."

My husband doesn't want to believe his mother would intentionally hurt his family, but I'm not so sure. Yesterday, Marley sent our family a box of cookies that contained ground walnuts. What should I do?

—**Allergic and Angry**  
**Dear Allergic:** We might have thought this was accidental, except for the fact that Marley confided she was deliberately giving her stepdaughter reactive foods. Either Marley erroneously believes allergies are faked and she is determined to prove it, or she is homicidal. Whichever, the woman sounds seriously deranged.

Your husband (or you, if he refuses) should talk to Marley's husband, the doctor, and tell him what she is doing. Ask him to see

that Marley gets a complete physical and some education about allergic reactions.

**Dear Annie:** Your advice to "Scared to Death," whose husband accesses incest porn via the computer, needs to include another component. Cybersex is, by virtue of its content and means of access, highly addictive. Certainly, this individual could benefit from therapeutic assistance. Please tell him to check with the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health to find a qualified counselor in his area.

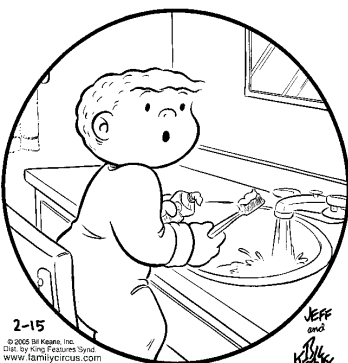
—**Elsbery W. Reynolds, CSAT, Idylwild, Calif.**

**Dear Elsbery Reynolds:** Thank you for your expert assistance. Anyone interested in contacting SASH can do so at [ncsc.org](http://ncsc.org) or by writing P.O. Box 725544, Atlanta, GA 31139.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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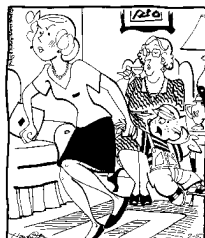
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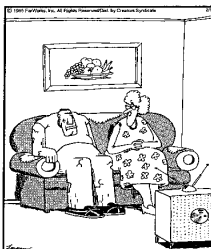


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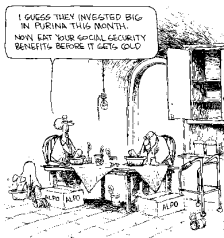
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The Far Side



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# Healing Heels

## N. Carolina shakes off heartbreak of Duke loss with win over UConn

By JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Minutes after their latest victory, the North Carolina Tar Heels were still talking about their last loss.

Rashed McCants and Raymond Felton had big second halves Sunday to help No. 2 North Carolina beat No. 19 Connecticut 77-70. It was the Tar Heels' first game since Wednesday night's 71-70 loss at No. 7 Duke, a game that ended with North Carolina failing to get off a shot on its last possession.

"Needless to say, we feel a heck of a lot better than we did Wednesday night," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. "I talked a great deal about getting that bad taste out of my mouth. We did some nice things today."

Like take over in the second half on both ends of the court.

McCants had 11 of his 15 points in the second half for North Carolina and Felton had 14 of his 16 points and seven of his 10 assists in the final 20 minutes.

The Tar Heels committed only four turnovers in the second half while forcing the Huskies into 13 of their 22.

"We gave in to great defense. We came apart," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "We weren't mentally tough enough to stay in our offense and the turnovers led to fast-break baskets."

McCants, Felton and classmate Sean May, who had 16 points and 13 rebounds, made the differ-

ence. The performances by the junior stars enabled the Tar Heels (20-3) to walk away with smiles on their faces instead of the stunned looks they were after the last-play breakdown at Duke.

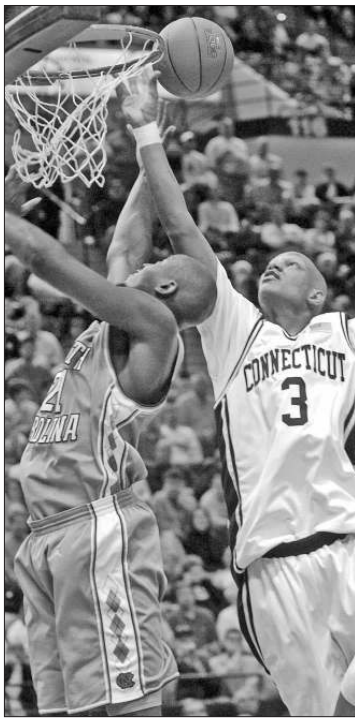
"It's big. It just shows how much more mature we are as a team and it showed our poise," Felton said. "We just came off a loss. Everybody was still kind of upset about the situation, but we had to come out and play against a big-time team in a big-time place."

Marcus Williams had 18 points for the Huskies (15-6), who had won three straight games and four of five.

"Their wings did a great job denying and they were able to get right into their offense," said Williams, who didn't play because of strep throat. "Playing Felton the whole game and pushing the ball took a lot out of me. I'm tired."

Connecticut led 34-31 after a first half that was played at the pace comfortable for the Huskies. The second half was more to the liking of the Tar Heels, who lead the nation in scoring at 91.2 points per game.

Felton hit a three-pointer with 12:10 left to break the game's final tie and give North Carolina a 51-48 lead. That started a 16-6 run that was capped with McCants' only three-point play of the game that made it 64-54 with 7:54 to go.



North Carolina's Jawad Williams and Connecticut's Charlie Villanueva reach for a loose ball during Sunday's game at Hartford, Conn. No. 2 North Carolina took control in the second half and won 77-70.

## Navy shaded by Bucknell; Army edged by Lafayette

The Associated Press

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Charles Lee scored 19 of his 22 points while staking Bucknell to a first-half lead Sunday on the way to a 71-60 victory over Navy.

Ab Badmus had 10 points for the Bison (17-7, 8-3 Patriot League), who built a 34-25 advantage at the break.

Greg Sprink had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Navy (7-17, 3-8) and George O'Garra had 13 points.

### Service Academies

Bucknell led only 61-54 with six minutes to go when Tarik Viera-McClymont snagged an offensive rebound and passed to Kevin J. Bennettcourt for a three-pointer and a 10-point lead.

The Midshipmen twice cut the margin to eight but were held without a field goal the final 5:29.

Lee hit consecutive three-pointers and added another basket as Bucknell broke to a 12-3 lead. Navy closed to 20-18, but Lee hit consecutive jumpers and another three-pointer to help the Bison to a 27-19 lead.

**Lafayette 76, Army 73:** At West Point, N.Y., Sean Knitter scored 21 points as Lafayette (7-17, 2-9 Patriot League) held off Army (3-20, 1-10) despite a combined 50 points by the Black Knights' Matt Bell and Cory Simmons.

Bell, who finished with 30 points, hit a free throw with 31 seconds to play to cut the margin to one. Knitter, fouled immediately after Lafayette inbounded the ball, converted two free throws with 5.5 left, and Army missed a final shot as time expired.

## Oregon St. drops Washington from Pac-10 lead

By ANNE M. PETERSON

The Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Oregon State was embarrassed the last time they watched Washington.

The Beavers were determined not to let it happen again, especially at home.

"We felt we owed them payback," senior guard J.S. Nash said. "It was an emotional game and I've never lost by 40. It was on a lot of our minds."

A month after a 108-68 shellacking in Seattle, Oregon State rose up and stunned the 11th-ranked Huskies 90-73 on Sunday.

David Lucas scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and finished with 10 rebounds for Oregon State.

The Huskies (20-4, 10-3 Pac-10) had their four-game winning streak halted and fell out of a first-place tie with Arizona atop the conference standings.

"They played extremely well," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said. "We didn't come to fight. We should have come with more fight than we had today."

The Beavers (14-9, 6-6) haven't had as many victories since the 1991-92 season. Oregon State has won three straight overall and improved its home record to 10-1.

"It was a big win for us," Oregon State coach Jay Johnson said. "I can't remember the last time Oregon State was 6-6 in the Pac-10 with six to go."

Brandon Roy scored 25 points for Washington, which shot just 41.2 percent from the floor and missed 23 of 27 from three-point range.

Lamar Hurd's fast-break layup gave the Beavers an 89-73 lead with less than 2 minutes left, and the crowd was on its feet. The ovation continued until fans spilled onto the court after the final buzzer.

"We were just negligent," Roy said. "We beat them so bad I think some guys thought we were going to cruise for a victory."

When the teams met last month in Seattle, Oregon State not only lost the game but also its coach, John was hospitalized after complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath at the half. He was diagnosed with hypertension and missed the game.

The Beavers played Sunday as if they were determined not to be humiliated again.

Oregon State mounted its challenge late in the first half. Leading 35-34, the Beavers went on a 7-0 run, capped by Chris Stephens' three-pointer, to make it 42-34. The lead was 43-37 at the break and any Washington comeback hopes were dashed when Oregon State scored the first eight points of the second half to lead by 15.

Nick DeWitz's dunk put Oregon State ahead 66-50. A 12-5 run got the Huskies within 71-62, but the Beavers weren't rattled and moved out to a 76-64 lead on a three-pointer by Stephens.

DeWitz finished with 20 points, Nash had 18 and Stephens added 17.

"I think everyone on the team played awesome," DeWitz said. "It was 100 percent non-stop."

Tre Simmons was the only other Husky in double figures, finishing with 15 points.

Washington was coming off a 95-88 overtime victory over Oregon on Thursday night. Will Conroy hit a three-pointer with less than a minute left to sent the game into an extra period.

This one, however, got away. Romar took the blame, saying he didn't have his team prepared.

"We can put this one on me. They played extremely well, but we should have given them a better fight," he said.



Washington's Nate Robinson can't bear to watch as Oregon State rolls during the second half on Sunday. The Beavers won 90-73.





# Malone: 'You can't see me play again'

BY DOUG ALDEN  
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Karl Malone still looks capable of playing in the NBA.

The knee injury that kept him out for half of last season is healed and the muscles that bulge from beneath his T-shirt indicate he's keeping up with his three-hour daily workouts.

But mentally, Malone said he doesn't have the will to endure the rigors of a 20th season, even just for a few months to try to win his first NBA title. He has had enough.

"I have retired. You will not see me play again. That is a promise," Malone said Sunday during a news conference. "There will be no unbelievable comebacks."

It was an unbelievable career. The 41-year-old Malone retires as the No. 2 scorer in NBA history, spending 18 seasons in Utah and one with the Los Angeles Lakers while trying to cap his career with a championship.

He visited San Antonio last week and talked with the Spurs about signing on for a playoff run, but said the "spark" he had always had to play was no longer there.

"When I got on that plane, I knew I was done, that it was time," Malone said.

He said he wanted to keep from getting too emotional Sunday, and he succeeded. He started off by thanking the Jazz, coach Jerry Sloan and former teammates before team owner Larry Miller reminded him he hadn't yet actually said why he was back in the Delta Center.

"I come here very humble as a man and as a player," Malone said. "I am honored to be here today because this is where I started. This is a team that took a chance on a young man from Louisiana — I don't think they ever watched me play a game."

An avid outdoorsman, Malone sported a cowboy hat as he spoke about a future involving plenty of hunting and fishing and maybe someday a job back in basketball. But it was clear he was ready to already done all he could on the court.



Karl Malone is reminded by Utah Jazz owner Larry Miller to explain why they held a news conference — to announce the player's retirement — on Sunday.

Malone was the league's MVP in 1997 and '99. One of the most durable players ever, he is second to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in scoring and minutes played. Malone's 14,968 rebounds rank sixth on the career list and he also was a 14-time All-Star selection, winning the game MVP in 1989 and sharing it with longtime teammate John Stockton in 1993.

The Malman also won Olympic gold medals in 1992 and '96. About the only thing missing in his career is a title ring, which he missed out on in all three of his trips to the NBA Finals. Malone and Stockton led the Jazz to the 1997 and '98 Finals, losing to Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls each time.

He had another shot with the Lakers last season, but was hobbled with a knee injury as the Detroit Pistons beat Los Angeles in five games.

"I wanted a championship. I'm not going to lie to you. That was my ultimate goal, but that was a team goal. That wasn't an individual goal," he said.

Malone said he chose Sunday to retire to honor his mother on what would have been her 67th birthday. Shirley Jackson Malone died in August 2003 and Malone said he still hasn't recovered emotionally.

The consummate power forward, Malone teamed with Stockton for 18 seasons with Utah, forming one of the NBA's greatest duos. Malone said Stockton, who retired in 2003 as the NBA's career leader in assists and steals, was one of the first people he called last week to say he was finished.

Bronze sculptures of Stockton and Malone are in the works and will stand outside the arena. Stockton's No. 12 was retired in November and Malone's No. 32 will follow next season.

"I wish he would have played another year here," Malone said, referring to Stockton. "I would have played another year with him."

# Heat claim first win over Western leader

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The one thing consistently eluding the Miami Heat this season was a big victory over a legitimate Western Conference contender.

Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal crossed that threshold on Sunday.

Wade scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and O'Neal finished with 27, sending Miami to a 96-92 victory over San Antonio in a matchup of the NBA's conference leaders. It was the Heat's first victory over the Spurs since Feb. 1, 2002.

"It's a big win," Wade, who has five of his final seven shots and 10 of his six assists in the first half. "Everything didn't go smooth for us, but what's important is we beat a great team."

The Heat moved to 39-14, a record fattened by a 27-4 mark against East rivals. Miami has been mediocre against the West, and was 0-6 against its top four teams — San Antonio, Phoenix, Seattle and Dallas.

Not anyone. Turns out, the Heat can hang with the league's elite.

"I don't know if it was a statement game," said Miami's Udonis Haslem, who grabbed 11 rebounds. "There's a lot more games to be played. Right now, we just want to build on it. We'll call it a building game."

Heat coach Stan Van Gundy: "That is the best I have felt about our team in a long time."

Eddie Jones, playing despite breaking his left index finger in the first quarter, had 12 points for

Miami, which shot 52.2 percent from the floor compared to 39.2 percent by San Antonio. Damon Jones had 11 points and was 3-for-4 from three-point range — including one that put Miami up for good with 3:06 left.

Manu Ginobili had 24 points for San Antonio, which shot 52.9 percent (9-17) from three-point range, and just 35.5 percent (22-62) inside the arc. Tony Parker had 22 points and Tim Duncan finished with 20 and nine rebounds for the Spurs.

"They had some huge three's and a lot of fast-break points in the fourth quarter," said Parker, who has scored 20-plus points in five straight games, his longest such streak in two years. "We made a lot of mistakes."

The matchup was a classic back-and-forth contest, with 22 lead changes, 22 ties and neither team leading by more than six points.

Ginobili's layup with 4:15 left put the Spurs ahead 85-83, but Miami answered with a 10-2 run over the next 2.42 Wade's driving layup with 1:33 left put Miami ahead 93-92 and the Heat seemed in control.

Ginobili, though, scored the next five points to draw the Spurs within one before Wade hit a jumper with 25.1 seconds left to seal Miami's sixth straight victory.

"It was a good game," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who opposed Van Gundy again next Sunday in the All-Star Game. "Both teams did a real good job and down the stretch Dwyane Wade hit a couple of real clutch shots. We all saw them; they were great."

# Coaching switch doesn't change T-volves' luck

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin McHale moved in for a closer look at the struggling Minnesota Timberwolves, knowing full well that his new title will not, by any means, guarantee a quick fix.

"Lots and lots and lots of stuff to clean up," McHale said Sunday after his debut as Minnesota's coach, an 87-83 loss to the Chicago Bulls.

The Timberwolves (25-27) expected to build off their appearance in last season's Western Conference finals and contend for an NBA title, have been perhaps the league's most disappointing team.

With no signs of consistency or improvement, McHale, the team's vice president of basketball operations, decided to fire his longtime friend, Flip Saunders. Minnesota remains only 1½ games behind the Los Angeles Lakers for the West's final playoff spot, so there's still time to salvage something from this season. Of course, not too many teams win championship aspirations each year in February.

Is it too late?

"We can't think like that," point



New Timberwolves coach Kevin McHale talks to his players between the first and second quarters against the Chicago Bulls on Sunday.

guard Troy Hudson said. "We're definitely off the track as far as where we want to be, but we still have a lot of games left."

McHale, who has no coaching experience, was on the bench for the first time since his Hall of Fame career with the Boston Celtics ended in 1993. He looked a little out of his element, wearing a long gray sport coat over a black

mock turtleneck — occasionally leaving his chair to talk to a player on the court.

Shouting from the bench, he was mostly encouraging, though clearly frustrated by the outcome. The energy level was acceptable, but this team is still not functioning properly: not rebounding well enough, not running the fast break effectively, not taking smart shots.

"We have a long way to go," McHale said.

His first priority, however, is to re-install a consistent fire in this bunch that has looked listless on several occasions. Though he said he wished Saunders was still coaching, McHale vowed to bring a more confrontational style to the sideline.

"I just want guys that will play hard and compete," McHale said. "If you compete and fight, good things will happen."

Players, just like Saunders himself, were surprised by Saturday's news. Many of them were sorry to see him go, though they pledged to forge ahead — a sentiment shared by owner Glen Taylor.

"Is this really all Flip's fault?" Taylor said. "It certainly isn't. But who can you change?"

The Timberwolves have been trying to make a trade and still haven't done so before the league's Feb. 24 deadline, but nothing was panning out in that area — and a switch on the bench became the best option.

"I believe that he exhausted all the things that he knew to try to motivate this team," Taylor said. "And I think I'm going to be a part of it. But I don't know what other alternative we had."

# Patton hosts two events for lifters

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The military's best power lifters will converge on the Patton Barracks gym for events Feb. 26 and March 12.

First up is the U.S. Force Europe championships for men and women Feb. 26. All U.S. ID-cardholders are eligible for the competition, which requires a \$35 entry fee. There will be 11 men's weight classes each in open, juniors and masters age categories. There are 10 weight classes in the lone women's division.

On March 12, Patton will host the U.S. National Military Championships, which carries the same entry fee and classifications. The best military lifters worldwide are expected for that meet, according to IMA-Europe sports director Tom Hlavacek.

For information, call Heidelberg sports director Eddie Beck at DSN 370-6460 or IMA-Europe's Mike Garcia at DSN 370-7944.





# For NHL, no news not always good news

It wasn't as if the NHL was having such a great season to begin with.

So there's that consolation if or when league boss Gary Bettman plugs the plug on this one.

Think about it. If the commissioner hadn't come up with that fifty lockout maneuver when he did, chances are good the three biggest stories at this juncture would have all been public-relations disasters, playing out in courtrooms and offices instead of ice rinks, and dragging the attention of most casual fans along with them.

Those stories, in rough chronological order, would have been: Former St. Louis goon Mike Danton being sentenced last November to 7½ years in prison for trying to have his agent killed; former Vancouver slugger Todd Bertuzzi petitioning Bettman last month for reinstatement after his vicious sneak attack on Colorado forward Steve Moore's career in jeopardy; and rising Atlanta star Dany Heatley being sentenced last week to three years' probation after pleading guilty to second-degree vehicular homicide in the death of teammate Dan Snyder.

That's the problem with the NHL. Pro hockey can be exhilarating, but hasn't been for a while, and the only time it makes the front of the sports pages anymore is when someone or something goes terribly awry.

Now some people will argue that even bad press is better than being ignored, which is essentially where the pro game

Jim Litke



finds itself at the moment. But there's no convincing Bettman of that, probably because nearly all the press during his 12-year reign has been bad.

Bettman took the job pledging to put hockey on equal footing with the other major team sports, and he widened the NHL's footprint from 21 franchises to 30, made inroads into such nontraditional hockey meccas as Arizona, Florida, Tennessee and Texas, grew revenues from \$400 million to almost \$2 billion, and brought big-time U.S. broadcasters into the league's TV fold.

But running with the big boys carries a steep price tag and all that expansion accomplished was to put more teams in a deeper financial hole. A league-sponsored report last February put losses from the previous season at \$273 million, and there are only two ways to get rid of a deficit like that, one is to bring in more money, the other is to cut costs.

Unfortunately, Bettman failed to get "cost certainty" the first time he locked the players out and lost nearly half of the 1994-95 season. This time around, he's willing to call off the whole deal and risk driving away even more fans to get his way.

Any idea that stupid is rarely the worst of

one man, and that's certainly the case here.

The players are taking home three-quarters of what the teams are taking in — the average salary has grown to \$1.8 million last season from \$558,000 in Bettman's first season — and while their union has shown some willingness to compromise in the few bargaining sessions that have taken place, they're drawing the line at a salary cap.

The NFL and NBA have them in place, baseball still does not.

Bettman and his owners have gone on record guaranteeing the players an annual income of \$1.3 million under their latest proposal — with the cap included. But as NBA star Latrell Sprewell said so plaintively earlier this season, players have families to feed, too. That's their rationale for letting this season go down the drain, and like Bettman, they're foolishly sticking to it.

Some of the resulting developments would be funny, if only they weren't so painful.

A nine-man group called the Atlanta Spirit bought the NHL Thrashers, the NBA Hawks and Philips Arena operating rights last year, and part of its payback was supposed to come Sunday, with a chance to host hockey's All-Star Game. Instead, with the arena dark, a member of the ownership group said he might go sit in the stands "and pretend like I'm watching a game."

"It's been a disappointment," Michael Gearon Jr., told his hometown newspaper, "we haven't seen a hockey game, really, since we became owners."

Neither, for that matter, has anyone else. By this point in previous negotiations between billionaires and millionaires, fans would have chosen sides, with the resulting public pressure forcing one or the other — or both — to make meaningful concessions.

Instead, both sides have interpreted the fans' silence as an endorsement of their position.

Wait until they find out the real reasons things have been so quiet. The product is dull and expensive. No sooner has Canada, where fans still care deeply, and springing up in Sun Belt locales, where there are plenty of alternatives and fans couldn't care less.

Instead of admitting the mistakes of the past decade of expansion, Bettman is determined to get a collective bargaining agreement that justifies them. And the players are just as determined to call his bluff.

If only the lot of them had been half this stubborn at getting to the bottom of the Olympic fiasco in Nagano. No sooner had those Games opened the eyes of fans worldwide to the speed, skill and beauty of the sport than a handful of busted tables and chairs wound up stealing the spotlight.

Like this mess, nobody took responsibility for that one, either.

And hockey wound up taking the rap, a reminder that no news is not always good news.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

## Canseco: Steroids made career possible

The Associated Press

Jose Canseco said in an interview with "60 Minutes" that he would never have been a major league-caliber baseball player without using steroids.

"I don't recommend steroids for everyone and I don't recommend growth hormones for everyone," Canseco said. "But for certain individuals, I truly believe, because I've experimented with it for so many years, that it can make an average athlete a super athlete."

"I can make a super athlete incredible. Just legendary."

The interview was broadcast Sunday on CBS, one day before the release of Canseco's book, "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big."

Canseco said he and fellow slugger Mark McGwire weren't close as teammates on the Oakland Athletics, but often hung out together and treated the subject of steroids as casual shop-talk.

"Mark and I weren't really in a sense of 'buddy buddies,'" Canseco said. "But there are certain subjects that we could talk about like obviously steroids and so forth."

McGwire, who has repeatedly denied steroid use, said in a statement to the television news magazine: "Once and for all I did not use steroids nor any illegal substance. The relationship that these allegations portray couldn't be further from the truth."

Canseco also told Wallace that steroids give athletes an edge besides increased size and strength.



In this video image released in New York by CBS, former baseball slugger Jose Canseco, right, is interviewed by 60 minutes host Mike Wallace. Canseco spoke candidly about his use of steroids during his major league career and injecting the performance-enhancing drugs into the bodies of some of baseball's biggest stars, including Mark McGwire, the first player to hit 70 home runs in a single season.

**"Mark and I weren't really in a sense of buddy buddies. But there are certain subjects that we could talk about, like obviously steroids and so forth."**

**Jose Canseco**  
Former Oakland A's slugger

"A lot of it is psychological," he said. "I mean, you really believe you have an edge. You feel the strength, and the stamina."

Canseco said he introduced steroids to former Texas Rangers

teammates Rafael Palmeiro, Juan Gonzalez and Tim Lincecum. All have publicly denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

"I injected them. Absolutely," Canseco said.

Tony La Russa, who managed Oakland when McGwire and Canseco helped the A's win a World Series, has stood behind McGwire's denial, telling "60 Minutes" that the first baseman got his strength and size from weightlifting and a careful diet.

La Russa was skeptical of Canseco's version. "First of all, I think he's in dire straits and needs money," La Russa said. "I think secondly... I think there's a healthy case of envy and jealousy."

"60 Minutes" planned to air more of Canseco's interview in its Wednesday program.

## NHL: League preparing to officially end season

NHL, FROM BACK PAGE

The NHL said its 30 clubs need to know what their costs would be, and the only way that could be achieved is with a salary cap that linked league revenues to player costs.

A cap was an automatic deal-breaker for the union even though it agreed that the financial landscape had to change. The players' association contended that there are many other ways to fix it.

The sides have traded proposals throughout the lockout that started Sept. 16. But the salary cap has always been the sticking point. Other issues such as arbitration, revenue-sharing, and rookie caps, never reached the true negotiating stage because the sides couldn't agree on the big issue.

On Friday, the NHL sent a memo to its 30 clubs, allowing them to contact players — something that was previously forbidden. The memo also allowed team executives to speak publicly about the lockout without being subject to fines.

AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum contributed to this report.



Dale Jarrett holds the trophy in victory lane on Sunday after winning the pole for this Sunday's Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

## Jarrett a surprise winner of race pole

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — For a guy still fighting the flu, Dale Jarrett was feeling pretty good.

Considered nothing more than an afterthought by most people after his first winless season since 1992, the three-time Daytona 500 winner knew he wasn't supposed to be one of the guys to beat in the season-opening race.

That changed Sunday when Jarrett, showing signs of his old flash, won his third Daytona 500 pole.

That established him as one of the favorites for next Sunday's Nextel Cup event.

"You sit and watch and read and listen to everything that's talked about for the Daytona 500, and probably for good reason," Jarrett said. "You really haven't seen the 88 car or my name and face for a while."

"But we still know what it takes to win at this. We may be getting up there in age, but that doesn't matter. I think we can be considered a car and team to beat on Sunday."

Jimmie Johnson, coming off a victory Saturday night in the non-points Budweiser Shootout, will share the front row and the favorite's role with Jarrett.

"We're really looking forward to the race," Johnson said. "We feel like we've got a better car for the 500 than we had last night."

"We're definitely feeling momentum," added Johnson, who narrowly missed the Cup title last year and is considered by many the championship favorite heading into 2005.

Jeff Gordon, Johnson's Hendrick Motorsports teammate, was fastest in practice Saturday at Daytona International Speedway and was the heavy favorite in the garage area to take the pole.

It appeared to be a good prediction when the two-time 500 winner took the top spot early in qualifying Sunday with a lap of

188.155 mph. But Jarrett, among the fastest drivers in pre-season testing, topped Gordon's Chevrolet with a lap of 188.312, grabbing his first Daytona pole since 2000, when he last won the big race.

Johnson, the 53rd of 57 drivers to make a qualifying attempt, pushed Gordon back to third in the field with a lap of 188.170.

Jarrett, his voice rough from the lingering effects of his illness, said, "I'm still a bit under the weather. I'm trying to get rest at night, but I'm doing all right and things like this certainly make the healing process a lot better."

"This is really a good race car," added the driver of a Robert Yates Racing Ford Taurus. "These guys have been working on this car since October. It's been in the wind tunnel a lot. We had a good test here in January."

Kevin Harvick was a somewhat surprising fourth at 187.914 in a Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet, followed by the Chevys of MB2/MBV Motorsports' teammates Jeff Menard and Scott Riggs at 187.837 and 187.758, respectively.

Only the front row starters locked in starting spots for next Sunday's race although, under NASCAR's new qualifying rules, the top 35 teams in car owner points are guaranteed starting positions in the race. All Sunday's time trials did for everyone other than Jarrett and Johnson was to determine where they will start in Thursday's 250-mile qualifying races.

Rounding out the top 10 in qualifying were Jason Leffler, reigning Cup champion Kurt Busch, Ricky Rudd and Elliott Sadler.

Defending Daytona winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. qualified 39th Sunday, but said he was not discouraged.

"The car races really well in the draft," Junior said. "Everything works fine, we'll have a good race on Thursday and get up front sooner or later."

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Two weeks, two victories for Phil Mickelson.

And these aren't ordinary victories.

Mickelson is usually a thrill-a-minute guy who keeps everyone entertained by trying to hit clutch shots along the back nine with the tournament at stake. He birdied five of his last seven holes to win the Masters last year. He once hit a tee shot into the canyon during a playoff at Torrey Pines and still managed to win with a double bogey.

That's what makes these last two weeks on the PGA Tour so alarming.

One week after winning in Phoenix by a career-high five strokes, Mickelson went wire-to-wire in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am to win by four strokes over Mike Weir.

"It's obviously doing something right," Weir said.

Mickelson has won his past two tournaments by nine shots. Going into this year, he had won his previous eight PGA Tour titles by a combined nine shots.

After working on the right things now for a year, he's starting back my distance off the tee and being able to utilize my wedge play, I feel like I'm able to make a lot more birdies," Mickelson said. "It just seems like... I don't want to say the game is easier, but it just feels a little bit easier."

There wasn't much heavy lifting Sunday, for sure.

Mickelson closed with a 1-over 73, the first time he has ever won with a final round over par. About the only thing he didn't get was the 72-hole record. He missed a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole and finished at 19-under 269, one shot short of the record set seven years ago by Mark O'Meara.

"I really don't think about records like that, individual tournament records," Mickelson said. "I just really wanted to win this tournament."

He was never in doubt from the time Mickelson opened with a course-record 62 at Spyglass Hill, regarded as one of the toughest spots in the world.

Weir tried to make it interesting.

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Vijay Singh will be the No. 1 seed in the Match Play Championship, narrowly hanging onto the top spot in the world rankings despite missing the cut in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

The world ranking released Sunday night determines the 64-man field for the World Golf Championship, which starts Feb. 23 at La Costa Resort just north of San Diego.

# Mickelson enjoys walk on the beach, easy win



Phil Mickelson follows his drive from the 9th tee of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Mickelson shot a 1-over-par 73 to finish at total 19-under-par.

The former Masters champion birdied three of his first four holes — the exception was a bogey when he missed the third green — and then made the only birdie of the final round on the 430-yard ninth hole, which plays along the cliffs and into a wet wind. Weir hit 3-wood to 6 feet.

When he birdied the 11th hole to get to 14 under, Mickelson's lead was down to four.

Mickelson, who had bogeys on Nos. 9 and 10 to give the Canadian a fleeting hope, was never worried. He knew the outward 10 holes at Pebble Beach were the toughest, and he only needed to get through them with limited damage.

When he got to the 11th, he smoked a drive down the middle of the fairway, hit a wedge into 18 feet and hit the purest putt of his final round for a birdie that pushed his lead back up to five.

Both players spent the rest of the day missing putts by the tiniest margins. Weir burned the edge on his next six holes, and his chip for eagle on the 18th just turned away. Mickelson followed his birdie at No. 11 by missing putts from 6, 4 and 8 feet, then missed three more inside 18 feet.

But all that affected was the final score.

This is new territory for Mickelson, winning by such a large margin, and it might take some getting used to.

"It was weird," he said. "I didn't feel the normal intensity, the normal stress. It was a very enjoyable round."

Which type of victory does he prefer?

"I enjoy the stress-free day at Pebble Beach, playing with friends," he said, alluding to Ford president Steve Lyons, with whom Mickelson has an endorsement deal. "But I also enjoy that intensity and nervousness and the excitement of having to pull off clutch shots to win."

He felt that earlier in the week, when he was building a seven-shot lead that made this event a foregone conclusion.

Mickelson became the first player to go wire-to-wire in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am over four rounds, and it was the first time in his career he had led from start to finish.

Weir didn't give up hope until he missed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th. His 67 was the only sub-70 score in the final round.

"I played one of the better rounds I've ever played," Weir said. "It could have been a really special round if a few things could have dropped for me."

## Singh is No. 1, Woods No. 2 for Match Play

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Vijay Singh will be the No. 1 seed in the Match Play Championship, narrowly hanging onto the top spot in the world rankings despite missing the cut in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

The world ranking released Sunday night determines the 64-man field for the World Golf Championship, which starts Feb. 23 at La Costa Resort just north of San Diego.

Tiger Woods, the two-time defending Match Play champion, will be the No. 2 seed. Woods can return to No. 1 in the world at Riviera this week in the Nissan Open, although that will not change the seedings for La Costa.

The top 65 are eligible for the \$7.5 million tournament because Ernie Els, ranked third, has said he will not play.

Tour officials did not anticipate anyone withdrawing, although players have until Friday to enter the tournament.

With Els not playing, Phil Mickelson will be the third seed and Retief Goosen will be No. 4. Assuming no one drops out, Singh would play Shingo Katayama in the first round and Woods would face Nick Price.

"I think Match Play is going to be a wonderful event," Mickelson said Sunday. "I think there is a good chance this year a lot of the top guys will win the first few matches and square off later in the final rounds."

## SPORTS



Jarrett claims third  
Daytona 500 pole,  
Page 35

## 3 more TDs, another MVP



AFC quarterback Peyton Manning, of the Indianapolis Colts, looks to hand off during the Pro Bowl on Sunday in Honolulu. The AFC won 38-27 and Manning was named MVP. See story on Page 31.

Report:  
NHL ready  
to cancel

News conference scheduled  
Tuesday to call off season

BY IRA PODELL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With no miracle save in sight and a weekend deadline long gone, the NHL made plans for a news conference Tuesday to cancel what little remained of a season already decimated by a lockout.

A public relations executive, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that planning was under way Monday for NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to make the announcement at a news conference in New York.

The Canadian Press, citing an unidentified source, said Bettman will cancel the season at the news conference.

The NHL would become the first major professional league in North America to cancel an entire season because of a labor dispute. This would mark the first time the Stanley Cup was not awarded since a flu epidemic canceled the finals in 1919.

Asked about The Canadian Press report, NHL spokesman Frank Brown said the league had no immediate comment.

After vowing not to reach out to each other after two days of talks broke off Thursday, the sides met Sunday at the request of a high-ranking federal mediator. Neither Bettman nor players' association executive director Bob Goodenow attended.

But that round of talks in Washington was also unsuccessful, with both sides saying that no progress was made.

Neither side has been willing to budge on the salary-cap issue — the NHL has said it is necessary in any new deal, and the players' association has rejected it as a solution.

NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly was joined Sunday at the five-hour meeting by outside counsel Bob Batteman, with players' association senior director Ted Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge on the other side.

The sides were assisted by mediators twice before, as recently as a Feb. 2 negotiating session in Newark, N.J. Sunday's meeting was requested by Scot B. Beckenbaugh, the acting director of the U.S. Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service.

Neither side thought mediation would help end the stalemate that has lasted five months.

The lockout reached its 152nd day Monday, a day after the NHL was to hold its All-Star game in Atlanta.

Bettman said the sides needed to start putting a deal on paper by the weekend if the NHL was going to hold a 28-game season and a 16-team playoff.

SEE NHL ON PAGE 34

Lefty gets it right  
again, becomes  
first wire-to-wire  
champ at Pebble  
Beach Pro-Am

Page 35



Malone retires  
after 19  
seasons with  
no title,  
promising 'no  
unbelievable  
comebacks'

Page 32



Second-ranked  
North Carolina  
rebounds from loss  
to Duke by downing  
UConn

Page 30

